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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Have you had your flu shot yet?

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Fierce Battle
Rebel forces rout troops loyal to Moammar Gadhafi in a fierce battle over an oil port.

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Apple CEO Steve Jobs takes the stage to launch the next generation of iPads.

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Blood Clot
Serena Williams undergoes emergency treatment for a blood clot in her lungs.

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No funding yet for marine monument visitors center

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan said yesterday that the White House's fiscal year 2012 budget submission does not include funding for the construction and operation of a Marianas Trench Marine National Monument visitor facility, two years after the presidential proclamation on the monument was signed.

He said there's not even a set of management policies developed or advisory council formed for the monument.

Under the presidential proclamation

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SENATE'S FINAL RECOMMENDATION TO CONGRESS:

FAS-like status for alien workers

» Should have at least 10-year stay in NMI
» No more 5-year extra waiting period

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

After several public hearings and draft revisions since the summer of 2010, the Senate will adopt today a panel's final recommendation to the U.S. Congress to grant nonresident workers who have been in the CNMI for at least 10 years as of May 2008 a status "similar" to those granted to Freely Associated States.

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> "It's about what's acceptable to the residents and nonresidents. We tried to balance the concerns of everyone."
>
> **—Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota)**

IS THIS WHAT WE'VE BECOME?

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

This disturbing eyesore was discovered on the morning of March 3, 2011, by a MINA staffer driving past the last pavilion in the 13 Fisherman Memorial beach areas. Beach front litter is not only unsightly, but packs many negative aspects that affect lives on the island. Besides the negative impact to tourism, the fragile marine ecosystem suffers from this kind of negligence. Trash that is left unchecked or scattered find their way to the water because of its close proximity, wind forces scattering debris, and stray animals tearing into unsecured trash bags. The Mariana Islands Nature Alliance would like to remind the public that what we do on land affects the ocean. Keeping the beaches clean is everyone's responsibility!

GCA's Trinidad is NMI's bet in regional Geography Bee

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI's representative to the regional Geography Bee, Grace Christian Academy's Josiah Trinidad, poses with his coach teacher Kelly Dawe after receiving the good news from the National Geographic Society yesterday.

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Grace Christian Academy's Josiah Trinidad will represent the CNMI in the regional Geography Bee competition after the seventh grader scored the highest in the written examination administered among Commonwealth students in January.

The good news was relayed to GCA yesterday by the National Geographic Society.

"I was shocked because I didn't expect it! I almost forgot about the written examination…but I am

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Top 3 picks for NMC president turned in. PAGE 3
3rd suspect in murder of MHS guard pleads guilty. PAGE 5

Local

6 schools vie in mock trial

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Six private and public high schools on Saipan will compete today in the CNMI High School Mock Trial competition at the Guma Hustisia in Susupe.

Organized by the CNMI Bar Association, the mock trial starts with its contest rounds at 8:15am today and is expected to conclude by 5pm. Each team consists of between eight to 10 members.

During the mock trial competition, students will portray the role of attorneys and witnesses and must present both sides of the case as plaintiff and defense. The students will be judged based on their knowledge of the evidence and ability to present a logical and persuasive case.

CNMI judges and attorneys serve as presiding judges and jurors/evaluators.

The winning team will travel to Phoenix, Arizona, to represent the CNMI at the 28th Annual National High School Mock Trial Competition from May 5 to 7.

This year mark's the 13th annual contest, with Mount Carmel High School as the defending champion.

Mock trial is a scholastic competition between both public and private schools throughout the CNMI. It was started in 1999 by the CNMI Bar Association and former Justice Ramon Villagomez as a way to further the understanding and appreciation of the judicial system.

This year, the mock problem is a fictitious civil case of Palacios v. Oscar A. Romero Public High School. Each participating school receives the fictitious case file complete with witness statements, exhibits, rules of evidence, and an abbreviated law library.

Teams comprising six to 10 students have spent months practicing with the assistance of their volunteer attorney and teacher coaches to prepare for the competition.

Sponsors of the event include Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan, Pacific Trading Co., Herman's Modern Bakery, NMI Judiciary Historical Society, Joeten Enterprises, Coca Cola, Hyatt Regency Saipan, National Office Supply, Pacific Islands Club, IT&E, J's Restaurant, Marianas Resort and Spa, Topnotch, offices of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, Sen. Pete P. Reyes, Rep. Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Rep. Joseph M. Palacios, Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb, and the Public School System.

Motion to dismiss negligence claims vs PMC, doctor denied

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Although some of the claims in a patient's lawsuit against the Pacific Medical Center Inc. and two of its doctors were dropped, the Superior Court has denied a bid to have the negligence claim against PMC and a doctor dismissed.

Associate Judge Perry B. Inos ruled that Martin Duenas' claims for negligence against PMC and Dr. Fahd Al-Alou are adequately argued in the complaint. This means the negligence claims will go to trial.

Duenas had sued PMC and doctors Fahd Al-Alou and Ahmad Al-Alou after one of them allegedly prescribed him with 600 mg tablets of ibuprofen despite being aware of his aspirin allergy.

As a result, Duenas said he was rushed to the Commonwealth Health Center's emergency room after his skin began to itch, he broke out his hives, and began having difficulty breathing.

Duenas' common-law wife, Eleornita Santos, joined in the lawsuit for loss of consortium. They demanded unspecified damages. They are represented by counsel William M. Fitzgerald.

Dr. Ahmad Al-Alou is an employee of PMC and the chief and supervisory physician at PMC; Dr. Fahd Al-Alou is also a PMC employee.

PMC and the two doctors, through counsel Robert T. Torres, had asked the court to dismiss the complaint for "failure to state a claim upon which relief can be granted."

At a hearing on Jan. 24, 2011, both parties agreed to drop some of the claims. Specifically, Duenas and Santos conceded that Ahmad Al-Alou should be dismissed as a defendant in this case. As a result, the claims for negligent supervision were removed from the complaint.

The parties also agreed that Santos should be dismissed as a co-plaintiff, resulting in her claim for loss of consortium being extinguished.

The issues remaining before the court concern whether the complaint adequately alleged an agency relationship between Fahd Al-Alou and PMC, and also whether the negligence claims were sufficient.

In his order, Inos said the complaint alleges that Fahd Al-Alou was employed by PMC and that he was acting under the supervision of Ahmad Al-Alou who was the chief physician.

"These facts, construed in the light most favorable to Duenas as the non-moving party, are sufficient to raise a plausible inference that Fahd Al-Alou was a PMC employee," Inos said.

On the claim for negligence against Fahd Al-Alou, the defendants argued that it is common knowledge that ibupropfen and aspirin are different drugs and do not have an identical chemical composition.

But Inos pointed out that the crux of the allegation is not that the two drugs are identical; rather, that a physician who is aware of a patient's allergy to aspirin acted negligently in prescribing ibuprofen.

"While these assertions are not conclusive as to liability, the allegations in the complaint are sufficient to state a claim for negligence against PMC," said Inos.

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Top 3 picks for NMC president turned in

» Candidates' names not disclosed; board discusses leak of confidential info

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Presidential Search Committee turned over yesterday to the Board of Regents sealed envelopes containing the names and files of its top 3 picks for the Northern Marianas College presidency.

Although the board voted to accept the documents, it opted not to announce the names of the three finalists pending the completion of the board's review and interview, expected to take place next week.

Board chair Juan Lizama also expressed dismay about the disclosure of the names of the top 5 candidates to the *Saipan Tribune*, describing the "leak" as distrust in the mission of the board.

The *Saipan Tribune*, citing highly placed sources at the college, had identified this week the top 5 candidates as Drs. Jeff Armstrong, John Whittaker, Sharon Hart, David Allen, and Christa Adams—all from off-island.

"The fact that the proceeding was supposed to be confidential as possible as you can imagine, we're getting the impression here that there are some in the higher ups that are leaking the confidential information…For me that's troubling because we have the next process, which is to form a committee to deal with the Top 3 candidates," he said.

Lizama claimed that "we want to be transparent because there's nothing to be hidden in the backdoor" but he expressed fear that the disclosure of the five names will affect the hiring process for the next chief executive officer.

"If we higher ups have policies that say we have to abide with utmost confidentiality and we're not following it, how can we expect the lower ranks to follow any rule or policy we set?" he asked

'PSC not terminated yet'

Despite the submission of the top picks for NMC president, Andrew Orsini told *Saipan Tribune* that the presidential search committee is not officially terminated yet.

Orsini, who chaired the search committee, praised the performance of every member, some of whom appeared at yesterday meeting, including vice chair John Oliver Gonzales, David Sablan, and Antonio Tiples.

As to how the panel came with its final candidates, Orsini said: "I don't know if there's any applicant [from here] because we're provided by the ACCT only the top seven candidates they rated and which was trimmed down to five when the two withdrew their applications. We have not received the applications of the other 36 individuals but these will soon be forwarded to the HR office," said Orsini.

'What comes next?'

The board did not disclose yesterday the next phase of the search process. They locked themselves in an executive session after the formal endorsement of the top 3 picks.

NMC has had no president since January 2010 after the departure of Dr. Carmen Fernandez. Serving in the interim capacity is Lorraine T. Cabrera.

Since the college was placed on continued show-cause status on Feb. 2, it has been the board's intent to name a new CEO before March 15—the deadline for the NMC show-cause report.

The hiring of a new president was delayed after the first presidential search failed. The board re-announced the vacancy and created a new search panel.

DIABETES FACT:
Early Diagnosis Saves Lives and Your Eyes!

The American Diabetes Association reports that nearly 24 million children and adults in the United States have diabetes, and almost 57 million people have pre-diabetes. That is why it is so important to be aware of some of the risk factors: being overweight, having high blood pressure and/or high cholesterol, a family history of the disease, as well as many others.

The ADA has also estimated that less than 1/3 of diabetic patients are getting a dilated eye exam every year, even though diabetes is the leading cause of blindness. Please don't take a chance with something as precious as your eyesight.

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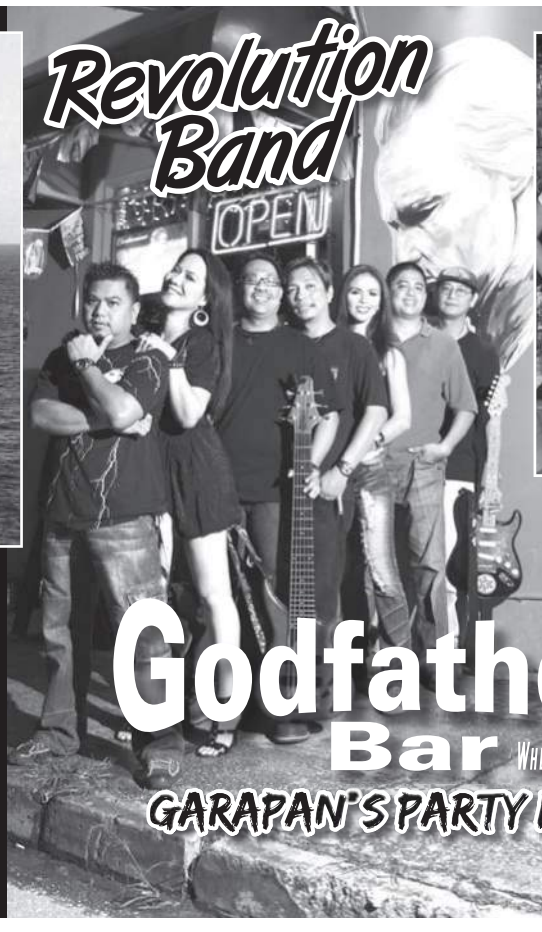

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House passes CUC privatization, renewable energy bill

» New settlement bill, 5 other resolutions approved

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives passed 18-0 yesterday a conference committee bill that restores the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s procurement authority to be able to enter into agreements with private firms, including those that could supply CUC with renewable energy such as solar, wind, geothermal, biomass or nuclear battery.

The bill also removes the $250 million price requirement for private firms to take over CUC.

The Senate is expected to also pass the bill today.

The House and Senate were deadlocked on the CUC bill, HB 17-114, resulting in the formation of a six-member conference committee that worked on a compromise bill.

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), author of HB 17-114 and a member of the conference committee, said he's happy with the compromise bill.

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), also a member of the conference committee, said once the bill is signed into law, it will allow CUC to start partnering with private firms to pursue renewable energy.

"As you know, fuel prices went up again, and it won't be long until CUC asks for another increase in rates. We cannot continue to rely on fossil fuel. We need to start working on ways to tap renewable energy sources," Dela Cruz told *Saipan Tribune.*

Besides Torres and Dela Cruz, the House conferees also included Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan). At the Senate, the conferees were Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota), Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan), and Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian).

The conference committee worked on six areas, including exempting renewable energy providers from the net metering law, expounding on the types of renewable energy projects, and adding a "build, operate, own contract" to the list of allowable private sector assistance agreement.

There have been about a dozen renewable energy companies that made presentations to the Legislature and the Executive Branch, but CUC still could not partner with these private firms because of legislative restrictions.

Settlement bill

Besides passing HB 17-114, SS1, SD1, SS2, CCS1, the House also passed a bill that would authorize the governor to negotiate a settlement and resolution of judgments entered against the CNMI government.

HB 17-165, authored by Rep. Ray Palacios (Cov-Saipan), passed on a 15-1 vote.

Unlike the original version of the bill, this measure does not specify a particular court case that could be settled by the governor.

Palacios said his bill applies to all judgments against the CNMI, and need not be settled through immediate cash payment.

"Claimants should be given the opportunity to consider other methods of judgment satisfaction besides cash payment as it will benefit the Commonwealth. Such method would authorize the governor to negotiate with the claimants to effectuate a prompt and fair resolution of the issue," his bill states.

Rejected bill

The House rejected the Senate amendment to HB 17-26, which imposes an excise tax on the sale of imported bottled drinking water.

House floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan) made a motion to reject the bill and called for a conference committee.

After the bill was rejected by a vote of 17-0, House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) appointed as conferees Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Sylvester Iguel (Cov-Saipan), and Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota).

5 resolutions

The House also adopted five resolutions, including Santos' House Resolution 17-37, which supports the confirmation of Superior Court Judge Ramona Manglona on her nomination by President Barack Obama to serve as U.S. District Court judge for the NMI.

Members also unanimously adopted HR 17-38, authored by Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), which urges CUC to negotiate contracts with independent power providers producing electricity using alternative or renewable energy.

HR 17-39, also by Santos, recognizes CNMI women in observance of CNMI Women's Month in March and CNMI Women's Day on March 8.

The House also adopted House Joint Resolution 17-30 to approve the Division of Customs Service's request to hire six personnel, including K9 drug handler and inspectors. Members also adopted HJR 17-31 to hire one employee at the Tinian Mayor's Office.

STATUS

From Page 1

The final report scraps the additional five-year waiting period for long-term nonresident workers to become eligible for a FAS-like status.

FAS citizens from Palau, the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia's Pohnpei, Yap, Chuuk, and Kosrae can freely travel to, work, live and study in the U.S. mainland and territories.

The Senate Federal Relations and Independent Agencies met yesterday to finalize its recommendation, which will be adopted today by the full Senate for submission to Congress.

The Senate is the first and so far the only CNMI government entity to initiate public hearings on the U.S. Department of the Interior's recommendation to Congress in April 2010 on the status of long-term foreign workers in the CNMI. The Interior had recommended improved status for foreign workers who have been legally in the CNMI for at least five years.

Senate Vice President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), chairman of the FRIA Committee, said the final report takes into consideration the concerns raised by both nonresident workers and residents during the last round of public hearings.

The previous drafts were based on public hearings held from June to August 2010.

"We considered all the concerns raised and we tried to balance the concerns of nonresidents and those who are from here. It's been a long process, and we thank all those who participated in the public hearings and submitted testimony," Hofschneider said.

Under the final recommendation, all nonresident workers residing in the CNMI for 10 years on the date U.S. Public Law 110-229 became law, which was May 2008, shall receive similar immigration status as that held by FAS citizens.

No person who has violated any CNMI or federal law, other than a traffic law, shall be eligible to receive such immigration status, the Senate report says.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said it is not about what the CNMI Senate thinks is "more acceptable to Congress."

"It's about what's acceptable to the residents and nonresidents. We tried to balance the concerns of everyone," said Manglona, who was also at the committee's closed-door meeting.

Hofschneider said the Senate is aware that many nonresident workers want a pathway to citizenship or "green card," or outright U.S. citizenship, but many CNMI residents are opposed to this but would like skilled foreign workers to have a status to remain in the CNMI to sustain the economy, among other things.

The panel thus recommends a FAS-like status that enables foreign workers to remain in the CNMI.

"At first the Senate panel was concerned that there would be a mass exodus of skilled foreign workers if they are given a status similar to those of FAS citizens," he said, adding that the public hearings gave senators a greater understanding that this won't be the case.

He said for CNMI employers to keep their skilled foreign workers, they also need to provide incentives to keep them here for their business.

Rabby Syed, president of the United Workers Movement-NMI, said yesterday that they appreciate the Senate's efforts in conducting public hearings and getting the sentiments of the community, as well as for removing the additional five-year waiting period.

"We brought this to the attention of the senators. If there's additional five years to wait, what will happen to foreign workers after November 2011 when the umbrella permits expire? We appreciate the senators' efforts," Syed told *Saipan Tribune.*

Syed, however, said that the United Workers Movement-NMI will continue to push for citizenship or pathway to citizenship.

He said the Senate proposal as it stands does not allow nonresident workers who may be granted FAS-like status an opportunity to apply for federal benefits such as Medicaid and housing.

"If they don't qualify for these federal benefits, they will become a burden to the CNMI government," he said.

Foreign workers held a peaceful march on Feb. 24 on Saipan to ask Congress to grant them "green card" or outright citizenship.

Trip to Washington, DC

Manglona, Hofschneider, and Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) will be personally handing the CNMI Senate's proposal to Congress in Washington, D.C. on the week of March 14.

They will be leaving Saipan on March 12.

Manglona and Hofschneider said their official visit to the nation's capital will not only be about the recommendation to Congress. They will also meet with other federal agency officials and staff on the impact of the federalization law or PL 110-229 on the CNMI, capital improvement project funding, other federal grants, public health initiatives and programs applicable to the CNMI, and transportation, among other things.

Hofschneider said they will have a meeting with officials of Homeland Security and Interior departments.

GCA

From Page 1

happy with the result," Trinidad told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Trinidad said he will prepare for the challenge by boning up on all things geographic.

"I will do my best and will keep on reading. I will make sure I will balance my time so I can prepare for it," he said, adding that geography and history are among his favorite subjects.

Trinidad is the youngest son of Vivian and Dante Trinidad. He will take the regional written test at the Public School System on April 1, which will be administered by PSS. The test will be mailed to the National Geographic Society in Washington, D.C.

Saipan Tribune learned that nine other students from the Pacific islands will take the same test, including four students from Guam and five students from American Samoa. Whoever gets the highest score will fly to the nation's capital to represent the Pacific region in the national competition in May.

Trinidad's coach and GCA's Geography Bee coordinator Kelly Dawe said yesterday that the school is very proud of Trinidad's achievement.

"I am very proud of him. He's been working hard for about three years to become Geography Bee winner and he's excited to move on to the next level and represent the islands," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

She said Trinidad bested 24 other finalists in the school level competition in December and topped three rigorous rounds for fourth to eight graders.

Trinidad has been joining the geography contest at his school since fifth grade. Last year, he also took the CNMI-wide test as an alternate to his school's top placer.

The 12-year-old student was GCA's third place winner in the Geography Bee in 2009 and finished runner-up last year. Last December, he ruled the school-level and represented GCA in the CNMI-wide level.

In January this year, elementary and junior high schools—both public and private—selected their school's representatives to the written exam competition.

Each year thousands of schools in the United States participate in the National Geographic Bee using materials prepared by the National Geographic Society. The contest is designed to encourage teachers to include geography in their classrooms, spark student interest in the subject, and increase public awareness about geography. Schools with students in grades four through eight are eligible for this entertaining and challenging test of geographic knowledge.

The National Geographic Society is one of the world's largest nonprofit scientific and educational organizations. It has funded more than 8,000 scientific research projects and supports an education program combating geographic illiteracy.

MONUMENT

From Page 1

that established the marine monument on Jan. 6, 2009, such council should be formed three months from the date of the proclamation.

"We're missing timelines here. There's no advisory yet, there's no policies in place yet. The governor also has to submit another name," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* in a phone interview.

Sablan was among those present at a budget hearing of the House Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs.

He said Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has yet to submit a nominee to the advisory council to replace the one he earlier named but who is no longer with the CNMI government.

He was referring to former Division of Fish and Wildlife director Sylvan Igisomar.

Sablan said the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service wrote to the governor last year, asking for a replacement for Igisomar. Fitial had also nominated Benigno M. Sablan and Joaquin P. Villagomez to the council.

Sablan reiterated that the visitor facility should be built in the Northern Marianas.

Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo also expressed her disappointment yesterday over the delay in establishing a management plan for the three marine national monuments in the Pacific Ocean, as well as empanelling the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument Advisory Council.

This was during the subcommittee hearing where she asked U.S. FWS director Rowan Gould about the operating budgets for the new marine monuments for fiscal year 2012.

Bordallo also questioned representatives from the Office of Insular Affairs about the matter.

Presidential Proclamation 8335 assigned management responsibility of the Marine Monument to the Interior secretary, in consultation with the Commerce secretary.

The secretary of the Interior delegated his management responsibility for these areas to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The marine monument spans over 480 miles and incorporates approximately 95,216 square miles within three units in the Mariana archipelago to conserve some of the nation's most unique and pristine marine environments.

The vast majority of the monument is located in the waters surrounding the CNMI, including its three northernmost islands of Uracas, Maug, and Asuncion.

3rd suspect in murder of MHS guard pleads guilty

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Randy Igisomar, one of three men who bludgeoned to death a security guard at the Marianas High School in 2008, pleaded guilty yesterday as part of a plea bargain.

Igisomar and his counsel, chief public defender Adam Hardwicke, signed the plea agreement with assistant attorney general Brian Gallagher.

Igisomar, 18, pleaded guilty to first degree murder.

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja set the sentencing for May 5, 2011, at 9am.

Under the agreement, the maximum prison sentence is 22 years but the defense can argue for a lower sentence, which can go as low as 10 years.

Igisomar is the last of the three suspects in the case to enter a guilty plea.

Last Jan. 6, Eric Rabauliman was sentenced to 26 years in prison, with possibility of parole. Last Feb. 1, Edward Blas was sentenced to 24 years in prison, with possibility of parole.

Gallagher told *Saipan Tribune* after the hearing yesterday that the government is pleased with the result, and that "this long ordeal is nearly over."

"The three defendants who committed this horrible crime did not just take one life, they destroyed the victim's family. The damage they did to their own families and the community is impossible to measure," Gallagher said.

He said many people worked long and hard hours to achieve closure for the victim's family and justice for the people of the Commonwealth.

"Various departments within the Office of the Attorney General and the Department of Public Safety all worked together to achieve this outcome. We're glad that we could achieve a fair and just result," the prosecutor said.

Efren Lagua Ballesteros, 45, a Filipino, was found dead on Nov. 18, 2008 at the MHS campus where he was assigned. His wallet containing $300 cash was stolen, along with his wristwatch.

Police said the defendants attacked Ballesteros with a piece of wood, a PVC pipe, and a rebar on or about Nov. 17 or 18, 2008. The defendants then broke into several classrooms at MHS and stole laptops and money.

When the incident happened, the defendants were all MHS students. Igisomar and Blas were 16, while Rabauliman was 18 at the time.

Bridge Capital: We will respond to new La Fiesta RFP

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Bridge Capital LLC said yesterday it will again respond to a new request for proposals on revitalizing the former La Fiesta Mall in San Roque once the CNMI government issues the RFP.

John K. Baldwin, chief executive officer and managing member of Bridge Capital, said the company is "still fully committed to assisting the CNMI government in revitalizing the La Fiesta Mall."

"Bridge believes that sustainable tourism is an important key to reviving the economy of the CNMI, and that a revitalized mall can be an important element in increasing tourism and helping the economy to rebuild," Baldwin said in a statement.

This was in response to acting governor Eloy S. Inos' statement to the *Saipan Tribune* that the government has rejected Bridge Capital's proposal to operate video lottery at the long-vacant facility.

The negotiations began in 2009, when Bridge Capital was the only one that responded to the government's RFP on revitalizing the defunct mall.

Inos said the Fitial administration does not have a problem having video lottery at La Fiesta, but it should be part of a bigger tourism project at the three-building complex.

The CNMI government has been paying for the lease of the La Fiesta property, yet it has not earned a single cent from it since 2004. This was the reason why the government invited proposals from the private sector on how to revitalize the former mall, turn it into a revenue-generating property, and help maintain the property's value.

Baldwin said yesterday Bridge Capital "remains interested in renovation and operation of the entire mall property and will participate in any new RFPs that might be issued."

Bridge Capital is an international investment banking, real estate, hospitality and asset management company headquartered on Saipan but with interests and investments throughout Micronesia, the U.S., and Southeast Asia. In March 2007, Bridge Capital bought interest on the La Fiesta property from the Japanese-owned Coco's Lagoon Development.

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CUC sets 2-hour power outage tomorrow

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has scheduled a power interruption for tomorrow, March 5, 2011, from 5:30am through 8:30am, affecting a lateral on the Kiya-1 circuit.

This will affect the Northern Marianas College and areas from Chalan Tun Antonio Apa to Gafo Pl.

The temporary power outage will allow the line crew to perform system improvements at the college. This system upgrade will improve the safety on the campus by removing many overhead conductors. In addition, vegetation clearing will also be conducted on Chalan Tun Antonio Apa.

The interruptions are necessary to ensure safety for the CUC line crew as they perform maintenance on the electrical grid.

CUC is currently training its power crew to eventually work on live wire to minimize future power interruptions. ***(CUC)***

'THANK YOU'

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), left, presents representatives of FHP Health Center a framed copy of a resolution recognizing FHP Health Center for its continued improvements in providing medical and health care services to CNMI residents, during the House session yesterday afternoon. Looking on are members of the House, as well as FHP clinic supervisor Nora Sablan, certified physician assistant Lone Stephen, lead receptionist Melanie Santos and administrative assistant Tanya Concepcion. Established in 1973, FHP has become a trusted health care provider and now has nine centers on Saipan and Guam.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

'Koblerville school science, wellness week a success'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Koblerville Elementary School's four-day Science and Wellness Week held from Feb. 15 to 18 was declared a success, with a science bee competition and a healthy recipe contest highlighting the event.

The Science and Wellness Week started with the recipe competition, intended to teach students that healthy foods are not just good for the body but can be delicious as well.

There were eight entries for the healthy snack category and four entries for the salad category. Healthy snacks were prepared by first to third grade students and salads were prepared by fourth and sixth graders.

Two of the schools' entries made it to the CNMI-wide Recipe Contest that will be held at Pacific Islands Club on March 12.

The second event was the yearly science bee competition for all grade levels. All bee questions were based on the PSS science benchmarks. Event organizers described the activity as a good way to test whether students have mastered the science lessons they've been taught in class.

On the third day, the school conducted a schoolwide Science, Technology, Electronics and Mathematics (STEM) competition. All student experiments and projects were showcased and classes were given time to watch and experience the different displays. The projects that made it in the Top 5 of each class competed in the KES STEM Fair and the top 7 of all school projects will be competing during the PSS STEM FAIR on March 18-20. The judges this year came from the private sector and various government agencies.

According to Janelle P. Rivera, KES Science and Wellness coordinator, the week ended with fifth grade students doing 14 hands-on and physical activities related to science and health that aimed to promote teamwork, sportsmanship, and a sense of responsibility.

Among the activities were a hula hoop race, a moonwalk race, air rocket, hoop glider, parachute making, nutrition bingo, paper boat race, bubble making, mini golf tournament and other activities. The sixth grade students also took a part by monitoring all students from kindergarten through fourth grade with the help of teachers and teacher aides. The sixth graders took their assigned class to different stations and were given 20 minutes to perform the tasks assigned per station.

"The sixth grade students had a wonderful experience being the teachers for the day, monitoring and taking care of their assigned students, while the fifth grade students had fun facilitating the learning. The student-led event taught everyone fun and interesting facts about science and wellness," said Rivera.

Competitions winners received certificates and medals for their hard work during the Parents and Teachers Association meeting on Monday.

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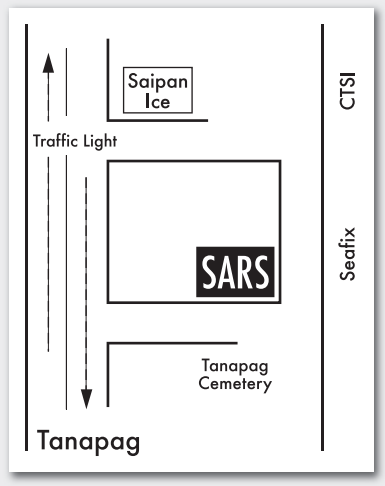

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Rota: 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. – Téteto Beach

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Suicide Cliff burglary

Crime Stoppers is seeking the community's assistance for information on a burglary and theft incident that occurred at Suicide Cliff.

On Monday, Feb. 21, 2011, three Japanese female tourists were taking pictures at Suicide Cliff, Marpi, when their personal items were stolen from a pickup truck parked in the area.

The three victims, along with their tour guide, had arrived at Suicide Cliff around 12pm that day. They left their bags in the back of the pickup truck unattended for about 10 minutes while they took photographs. At that time there was only one other person at the site taking pictures with the group. When they victims returned to the car, they discovered their bags missing from the back of the truck and one from inside the car.

There was a brown sedan seen pulling out of the parking area when they first arrived on scene. Police believe that the suspect or suspects may have been hiding in the boonies, waiting for an opportunity to strike.

The stolen items include passports, identification cards, credit cards, an airline ticket, a white Docomo cell phone, a white A&U cell phone, beach clothing, and over $800 in cash.

The Department of Public Safety and Crime Stoppers are seeking help from the public for information about this incident. Contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use its website at www.nmicrimestoppers.com. Crime stoppers pays up to $1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. ***(Crime Stoppers)***

USS *Oklahoma City* arrives in Guam

SANTA RITA, Guam—USS *Oklahoma City* arrived yesterday, March 3, at Naval Base Guam. The Los Angeles-class submarine will replace USS *City of Corpus Christi* , maintaining three submarines forward deployed to Guam. The submarine will be assigned to Commander, Submarine Squadron 15.

Forward-deployed submarines are readily capable of meeting global operational requirements. Guam's strategic location enhances military force flexibility. Its location allows freedom of action, regional engagement, crisis response and deterrence, while helping to fulfill commitments to U.S. allies and partners to protect the nation's security.

With a crew of approximately 130 personnel, *Oklahoma City* completed an engineered overhaul in November 2010. *Oklahoma City* is the second naval vessel to be named after Oklahoma state's capital city. ***(USN)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Mar. 4, 1999

BOE approves $38.7M for PSS

In a special meeting convened yesterday, the Board of Education approved the $38.7 million budget of the Public School System for the next fiscal year. The approved budget registers a million dollar increase from its previous $37.7 million and will enable PSS to fix the anticipated deficit next year, according to acting Fiscal and Budget Officer William Matson during his presentation. However, it will not allow PSS to hire teachers, he said. This money figure for next year also records some $5.8 million deficit from the ideal budget which the BOE asked Matson to prepare.

Inos hopes to open bilingual school

Commissioner of Education Rita H. Inos considers the opening of a magnet school that specializes on the local identity as one major venue to champion the use of the indigenous language in the CNMI. She said the Public School System tries to incorporate the local culture and language in its curriculum but it is limited since it competes with other academic requirements. Not all private schools in the CNMI also offer bilingual classes. "It doesn't have that kind of far reaching effect and perhaps a magnet school is one that we should look at," she said in an interview. According to Inos, this is the type of school where parents would choose to send their children because of its "cultural" emphasis, incorporating the bilingual language to the academics.

Mar. 4, 2002

Task Force hopes to prolong dump's use

The newly-appointed Solid Waste Task Force, chaired by Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente, is exploring ways to prolong the use of the Puerto Rico dumpsite, which is expected to reach full compaction this year. Task Force members, meeting for the first time last week, toyed with this idea following projections that construction of the Marpi landfill may not be completed until December 29, 2002. They were briefed on the status and the immediate needs of the Puerto Rico dump, the Marpi Landfill, and the Lower Base Transfer Station, which is scheduled for completion in September.

CNMI's first theme park to start construction

The American Builders announced that the CNMI's first theme park would start construction in the next few weeks, following the completion of design and concept for the entertainment center. In a statement released Friday, the company disclosed that it has been planning the construction of the Pacific Castle Park and Family Entertainment complex for the last seven years. The theme park is one entertainment center where the entire family can indulge in wholesome fun, according to the company's media statement.

Mar. 4, 2003

AG declines to issue legal opinion on NMC policies

Attorney General Ramona V. Manglona declined Rep. Stanley S. Torres' request for a legal opinion relating to the Northern Marianas College's authority to hire and terminate employees. Manglona, in a letter to the Chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, explained that her duty as counsel to the Governor and the Executive Branch agencies--including the NMC--precludes her from answering any questions pertaining to the propriety of NMC's actions. "This duty has created the traditional attorney-client relationship with those agencies," she told Torres in a letter dated Feb. 28. Torres, a staunch critic of NMC president Kenneth Wright stemming from the sudden termination of 11 college employees last September, had asked Manglona to render a legal opinion on whether the Board of Regents acted improperly when it conducted a closed-door meeting reportedly discussing the appointments and termination of some NMC employees.

DOI scholarships up for grabs

The U.S. Department of the Interior is encouraging top high school student leaders, grades 10-11, to apply for one of three full scholarships being offered by the department, to attend a Junior Statesmen Summer School session in the U.S. mainland. The scholarships cover all tuition costs and round-trip transportation to the summer school of the students' choice. Month-long sessions of the Junior Statesmen Summer School are conducted at the prestigious university campuses of Stanford (near San Francisco), Northwest (near Chicago), Princeton University (near New York), Yale (near New York) and Georgetown (in Washington, D.C.).

JOETEN'S

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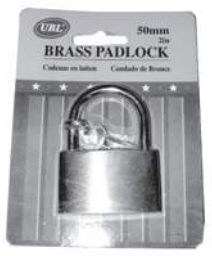

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$7.75

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$1.55

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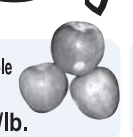
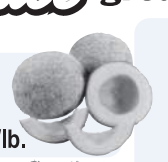


Cantaloupe **99¢** /lb.



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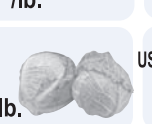

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Is labor on the ropes?

By DICK POLMAN
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

The current assault on public unions—the last healthy sector of the beleaguered labor movement—is by no means guaranteed to succeed. The whole strategy, nurtured for decades by conservative activists and their corporate backers, smacks of serious overreach.

Put simply, it's a radical move to strip unions of their collective-bargaining rights. And most Americans tend to be wary of radicalism.

Wisconsin is the laboratory, the perfect storm for this experiment. It has a double-digit budget deficit, a new Republican governor whose candidacy was heavily bankrolled by antiunion interests, and a new Republican legislature. The Wisconsin Republicans blame the public unions for the red ink, but their true aim, these last few weeks, has been to exploit the red ink for long-term political gain and export their success to Republicans elsewhere.

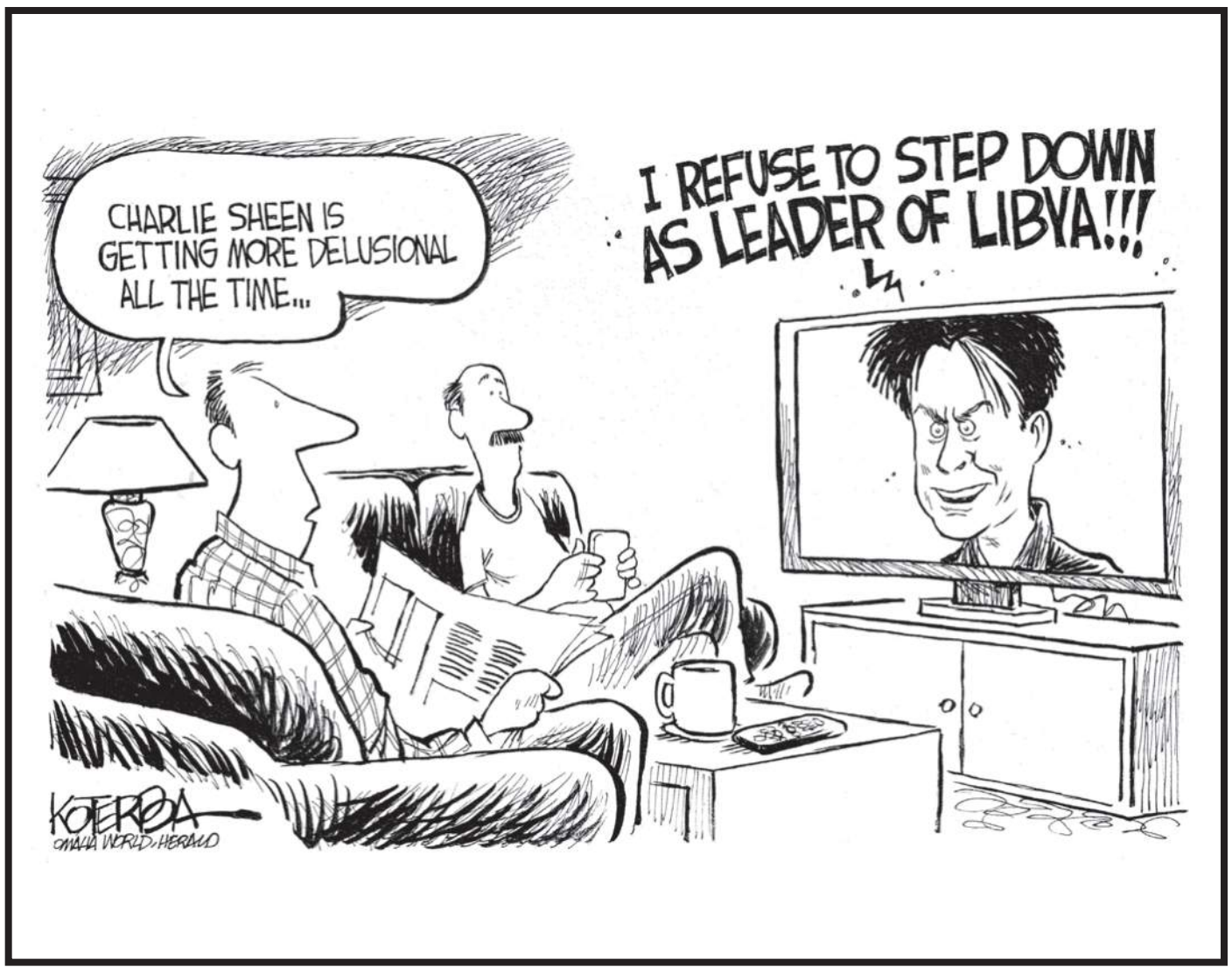
Gov. Scott Walker, in his second month on the job, seeks not only to extract economic concessions from these unions, but to bust them—by stripping their bargaining rights, barring them from using worker dues for political operations, and forcing them to stage annual elections on whether they should remain in existence. Interestingly, the public unions that represent police and firefighters would be exempt from these rules; perhaps it's sheer coincidence that Walker has exempted the folks who endorsed him in 2010.

There was a time when Republicans would openly ridicule Rahm Emanuel, the erstwhile aide to President Obama, for his '08 remark about how "you never want a serious crisis to go to waste," but they have apparently embraced the credo. They spent two years assailing the Obama team for overreach, yet now, flush with their '10 election successes, they're risking the same behavior.

And the public is already weighing in. Gallup reported the other day that 61 percent of Americans don't want to strip public unions of their bargaining rights; only 33 percent said yes to the Wisconsin idea. Most important, the point spread among independent swing voters was 62-31. In other words, even though Americans generally have mixed feelings about unions, they view emasculation as extremism. If Walker and his well-heeled backers—notably the industrialist Koch brothers, longtime financiers of antiunion think tanks—hope to win hearts and minds nationwide, it would appear that the bar may be higher than first anticipated.

Indeed, a number of Republican governors have already bailed on the crusade. In Indiana, Mitch Daniels said the other day the stripping of bargaining rights should be pursued in "a better time and place." (He didn't specify one.) In Pennsylvania, Gov. Tom

See LABOR on Next Page


CHARLIE SHEEN IS GETTING MORE DELUSIONAL ALL THE TIME...
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Xiamen in my abdomen

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's *Opinion Section*

If you are thinking "ramen" in my tummy, that is not quite our meaning, though you are lurking in the neighborhood. On descending to the famed city of Xiamen in Fujian, I debated whether I would venture into the city, remain a social voyeur in the airport, or retreat to gaze at my navel. I had seven hours to kill before my next flight. The aromatic assault on our senses provided no escape inward as the Sino cuisine settled on the palate like *leche flan* after a glass of brandy on a Basque vineyard.

But that's not where our mind went. You see, we're in the province of Fujian that not so long ago was blacklisted in the CNMI. I thought that it had to do with the secretive *Tongs* from the province, the ones who smuggle folks to the first world at $30K a head, which might very well have its nefarious tentacles in illicit activities on Saipan. In 2001, I listened to a conversation where the price of human life was discussed like it was a piece of meat. A $2K would maim an arm, $3K a leg, "progressing" to the taking of life at $10K. The conversation involved Fujians. My reasoning was thus not too far off, though at the time a Chinese island company owner originally from the region was out of political favor, and the suspicion of retribution on him was not far off.

To those unfamiliar with China's geography and demographics, the eastern seaboard from Hebei to Guangxi is the rice granary of the nation, including the bowl of Sichuan (and elevated *Li Jiang* turned Shangri-la, and so this region is where the majority of China's population is concentrated. The Manchus and Tungus of Dong Bei and the Mongols of the steppes were the people for whom the Great Wall of China was built. They were foreigners and were meant to be kept out of reach from the rice and silk associated with the watersheds of the Chiang Jiang, the Xi Jiang, and the Huang He rivers.

It is to the credit of China's yearning for unity that instead of being taken over by foreigners, it assimilated the foreigners to become its own. The Hans that dominate the eastern seaboard and the rice bowls are really of different tribal origins but are lumped together for the sake of unity since the Qin and Han dynasties, and the distinctions had been blurred since. This is like the Vermonter and the TexMex calling themselves Americans notwithstanding the preference of each for tea sandwiches in the former and tacos in the latter, with nary a commonality of taste buds in between.

One branch of the Fujians are the Hakkas, themselves a diverse group of nomadic seafarers whose numbers ventured into the rest of the world and are the predominant Chinese in Southeast Asia, SF and Vancouver, Toronto and NYC, and yes, Kingston and Bermuda, Rio and Buenos Aires, Sao Paulo and Honolulu.

Personally, whatever Chinese blood runs in my veins would have come from this region as the commerce and the personal exchanges of fluids that occurred in pre-European contact in the Philippines were between the Ilocanos and the Fujians. The pirate Li Ma Hong even bothered the Spaniards for a while. Equally significant is the origin of the predominant Japanese group south of Edo from the eastern shores of China. Might Mt. Fuji's name be associated with this region in China?

Coming into Xiamen on an overcast cloudy day that evidently held the coal burnings in the sky was thus an abdominal address not just on the tummy, but also on the bile and the spleen, the kidney and the liver, the intestines and the appendix. In short, it was a punch in the gut of our ruffled and beleaguered global consciousness.

Xiamen is hardly the stereotypical picture of China beset by famine that still dominates Gringo consciousness and mothers who still echo grandma's "just think of the starving kids in China" ruse to egg children to eat their spinach. In fact, when I walked out of the plane into the terminal, it felt like the late '70s when I woke up at Charles de Gaulle airport in Paris, with tubes carrying passengers like we were on a set of a sci-fi movie. The airport's skeletal vaults look like the architectural flying vault of Notre Dame.

More remarkably, the airport staff must have been recruited for their height. A company of uniformed forces on parade usually consists of persons of the same height, 5'8" in the Air Force, I believe, and this seems equally true at the airport. We think of Yao Ming of the Houston Rockets as a Chinese aberration. Well, not unlike the short Koreans and Japanese of our biased imagination, the Chinese young people must have been fed "Miracle Gro" for they tower over their elders by at least a foot.

That's when the China of my imaginings crumbled to dust for I am heading to Shenyang Aerospace University with the not-too-humble notion that I am to impart accumulated knowledge to docile local and international students rather than learn with them, of the nature and process abiding in our collapsing economic world.

Fujian need not be discriminated against just because of the *Tongs* in its ranks, in the same fashion as Texas need not be looked down upon because of its rednecks. *Tongs* have maintained communal integrity of communities, and rednecks do twang some mighty country tunes.

Xiamen. It can get heavy in the abdomen, and the brain.

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The gas station guy

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at TropicalEd.com. Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday.

As of yesterday morning gasoline stood at $4.359 a gallon on Saipan for self-serve regular. Judging from recent moves in oil markets we're due for more price increases, possibly by the time this article sees print. But if you want to look for a silver lining, then folks in the business sector might use these stressful times to reinforce their relations with customers. After all, when people are re-considering their buying habits, why not jump into their decision loop?

So allow me to introduce the gas station guy, Ron.

Ron owned the neighborhood gas station where I lived in California as a teenager. California is the ultimate car culture, so when an epic spike in gas prices hit it was headline stuff, just as it is on Saipan.

At the time I was working at a gas station a few miles away. Where I worked was a pretty grim scene: Lots of grouchy customers, a misanthropic owner who was entrenched in his dingy office, and a few harried workers like me scurrying around withering under the gazes of a surly public.

Anyway, one afternoon I was in the family Buick when my parents pulled into the neighborhood station for fuel. Upon pulling in the first thing we noticed was a cheerful fellow who was going from car to car, schmoozing with the customers, and cleaning windshields on the queued cars. As soon as a car entered the line, the guy would walk up and greet the driver.

This guy was none other than the owner, Ron. Instead of hiding from customers during the gas price spike, he was actively engaging them. And he had the highest prices in the area. Talk about a contrarian!

Well, since I was a fellow gas station professional and all, I surveyed this station with the hairy eyeball of scrutiny. It had a totally different feel to it. I scanned the area for signs of sour faces. None in evidence. In fact, the customers seemed at ease.

There was also a manager right there in the thick of things at the gas pumps, along with a few worker bees. The manager, just like the owner, was articulate and had a cheerful gift for gab. I noticed that the station divided up the chores. From what I observed, the manager would usually greet the customer at the pump and take the order, then a worker would do the hands-on stuff (fueling, checking tires, checking oil, etc.), then the manager would close the transaction by taking the payment (most people there paid with credit cards, not cash), which gave him a last, parting shot at sealing the experience with some cheerful bonhomie.

As for the owner, I'm not suggesting that he spent 16 hours a day with a squeegee in his hand. I think he was savvy enough to know when the peak times were, and that's when he'd join the action.

Meanwhile, the place where I worked was mired in a steady decline in business, and, of course, we all blamed the higher cost of gasoline.

By contrast, Ron's station seemed to have more business every time I looked. It also had two service bays and some mechanics, so this action was an obvious mesh with things. People have a notorious distrust of mechanics, and a consequent dread of having to deal with them, but this station inverted that whole equation.

Lessons? Well, one take-away for me was that even when prices are climbing, there can be room for someone who competes on quality, not on price. This swims upstream against textbook price theory, which holds that when prices of something climb, consumers become more price-sensitive. But I'll take a stab at some reverse psychology: When prices climb, people get more stressed out at the transactional experience, so Ron's station thrived on making the experience less, not more, stressful.

From what I see, people tend to re-arrange their buying habits in times of economic stress. It's a negative sum game for businesses, I'll admit. But it's also an opportunity to harvest the flux while consumers' minds are receptive to changing their loyalties. Ron did just that, not by taking the low road, but by taking the high road.

I'm not suggesting that a premium-service, higher-priced gas station would succeed in the Commonwealth. It probably wouldn't. We don't have many deep pockets here. But the bigger points are still valid. I learned more from observing Ron's operation than I've learned from reading many thick tomes on business.

And the Oscar for best drug goes to…

BETTER LIVING

By DAVID KHORRAM, M.D.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

David Khorram, M.D., is a board certified ophthalmologist and the medical director of Marianas Eye Institute, which as been hailed by Retinal Physician Magazine *as "one of the best-equipped eye clinics in the Asia-Pacific region." Dr. Khorram is listed in* Guide to American's Top Ophthalmologists *and is a member of the American Society of Retina Specialists.*

I love going to the movies. I'm at the theater almost every weekend. I enjoy the art of storytelling, the way the scenes are strung together, the visual effects. I love seeing how in the opening scene, the setting is introduced. It's all a magical world. But I'm not much into the whole Hollywood aspect of the movies. I usually know that the actress looks familiar but I don't pay a lot of attention to her life, her new boyfriend, her rehab schedule, or her new weight. I love the stories the movies tell, not all the surrounding hype. And so the Academy Awards that took place this week are not very intriguing to me.

But I was thinking, if the Academy were to add some new categories—give out Oscars for some of the "bests" in medicine—I would watch that program. I'd even want to be a voting member of that Academy. I'd show up to the awards ceremony in my black tuxedo, walk down the red carpet with my beautiful wife on my arm, accompanied by an entourage of Marianas Eye Institute's finest eye-care technicians, all in designer evening gowns and carrying Louis Vuitton and Gucci purses, except for Thelma and Mel who would instead be toting woven betel nut bags.

There would be cameras flashing, microphones thrusting, reporters clamoring to know what I thought the chances were that this drug or that procedure would snag the Oscar in its category. I know that there is already an award ceremony for this sort of thing—something called the Nobel Prize—but generally the Nobel ceremony is a bit stiff, and lacks the glamour of the Oscars. Sometimes people snore during the acceptance speeches (sometimes it's the guy giving the speech), which is why they aren't televised. I think it's better to just add a few categories to the Oscars—you know, help bridge the gap between scientists and starlets.

With that goal in mind, I would want to have something to say about the seating arrangements. My table would have Stephen Hawking, that physicist dude from England, and Julia Roberts. I know more about Julia than Stephen (for the longest time she's been on my family's list of people to have over to dinner, along with Nelson Mandela and Sponge Bob), but I'd enjoy getting to know Stephen and finding out what that whole "eee equals em cee squared" thing is really all about. I have no clue. As a result of chatting during the ceremony, Julia, Stephen, and I would plan an upcoming film called *Eat, Pray, Do Eye Surgery*. Stephen would argue for *Eat, Pray, Accelerate Nuclear Particles*, mostly so he could play himself. But ultimately he would relent to the greater commercial appeal of eyes over nuclear particles. The film definitely would not be a chick flick; more of a bro-mantic comedy, starring Paul Rudd (as me) and Zach Galifakolofolokonis (I can't remember how to spell that guys name for the life of me) as my alter-ego surgical assistant. Together we would travel to Italy, India, and Bali in quest of the perfect cataract, which we would find basking in the tropical sun on Kuta Beach, behind a pair of '60s sunglasses, in the left eye of Bill Murray. The sequel would be about getting Bill Murray to Saipan, where we would do the surgery.

When the time would come for the award for "Best Drug," I would have voted for Avastin, the wonder drug that is doing more to prevent—even reverse—the visual loss from diabetic eye disease and macular degeneration than anything else in history. (I use it every day, and it deserves an Oscar.) It would win, and I'd be very excited to be presenting that award with my co-presenter, Anne Hathaway, who would also be very excited to be presenting that award with a real live ophthalmologist. The folks from Genentech, the drug's maker, would accept the Oscar on Avastin's behalf, because Avastin, although present at the ceremony would be unable to accept the award in person, because, well, it's a liquid. The CEO of Genentech, its head of R&D, and some other scientists would be beaming on the stage, but would be a bit disappointed that the highest paid star in their studio, Lucentis, had only won a "Best Supporting Drug" Oscar.

Now that's the kind of Academy Awards ceremony I would want to be a part of! That would make science a little more accessible, and it would get some pretty cool people interviewed by TMZ. Until then, I'll dream up new categories, new guests at my table, and new crossover plots. I'll see you at the movies.

Note: Topics discussed are for example or illustrative purposes only and are not to be taken as medical or professional advice. Comments or questions? Call Dr. Khorram at 235-9090 or contact him through www.MarianasEye.com.

LABOR

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Corbett has stayed aloof. In Florida, Rick Scott said, "My belief is, as long as people know what they're doing, collective bargaining is fine," which, for a newly elected Republican, is akin to joining a picket line and singing about Joe Hill.

The GOP would ideally love to break the public unions—which represent 36 percent of all public workers—because they tilt heavily toward Democratic candidates. If those unions went away, pro-Republican corporate dollars would dominate the political process to an extent not yet seen, with a monumental assist from the Supreme Court's 2010 Citizens United ruling that essentially freed up corporate largesse. (The playing field is already a tad asymmetrical; in the 2010 races, according to federal figures, 71 percent of all the political action committee money came from business PACs. Labor's share of the total PAC money? Fifteen percent.)

For that breakage to occur, Republicans need to convince voters that their states have gone bust because of public-union greed. But the premise is flawed. There is no slam-dunk correlation.

North Carolina, for instance, bars its government workers from bargaining—yet it currently has the 10th-worst budget deficit in the nation, seven percentage points higher than unionized Wisconsin (and two points higher than unionized Pennsylvania). Indiana, which was pushing a bill to end collective bargaining until Daniels bailed, has the lowest budget deficit of all. In fact, of the 10 states that are reportedly in the best fiscal shape, eight (Indiana, West Virginia, Montana, Massachusetts, Delaware, New Mexico, Hawaii, and Michigan) are unionized.

Perhaps it would be more accurate to blame the Great Recession, and its still-resonating aftershocks, on the rampant Wall Street hyperspeculators—instead of scapegoating teachers, nurses, and other recipients of middle-class paychecks.

I wouldn't presume to suggest that public unions have always been pristine. They often coddle bad teachers who deserve to hit the bricks. They can be arrogant, as evidenced by the '70s incident in Pennsylvania when AFSCME leader Gerald McEntee declared, "Let's go out and close down this goddamned state."

But public-union collective bargaining has been encoded in our culture for a half-century—Wisconsin was the first state to sign on, in 1959; President Nixon boosted federal bargaining rights in 1969; Gov. Ronald Reagan legalized those rights in California in 1968 (there he goes again, confounding the conservative iconography). And it's simply worth noting that the middle class in this country was strongest, and the income gap between rich and poor was narrowest, in the postwar decades when unions were healthiest.

What could be labor's last stand comes at a time when a mere 6.9 percent of private-sector workers wear the union label, and perhaps it's sheer coincidence that the current income gap between rich and poor is the widest since 1929. It should not be difficult, even for the message-challenged Democrats, to make the argument that an assault on public unions is an assault on the middle class, or to argue that the Wisconsin governor's move to strip bargaining rights is an assault on fundamental American fairness.

Even the Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce, in the Wisconsin capital, said in a statement the other day that it would not endorse the GOP's "adversarial way"—especially "given this state's long history of collecting bargaining." Such are the perils of ideological fervor. Labor may yet weather this perfect storm.

Dick Polman is a columnist for the Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may write to him at: Philadelphia Inquirer, P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by e-mail at dpolman@phillynews.com; blog: http://www.dickpolman.blogspot.com.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

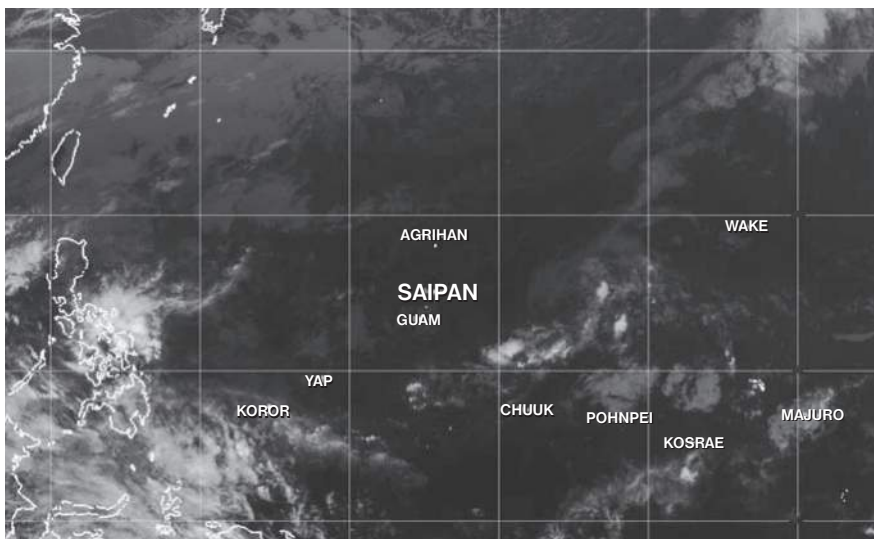
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼76
Palau	Partly Sunny	▲87	▼77
Yap	Rain	▲87	▼76
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼75
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼78
Kosrae	Showers	▲85	▼79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲74	▼69
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲49	▼28
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲67	▼60
Honolulu	Showers	▲81	▼74
London	Mostly Sunny	▲44	▼36
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼46
Manila	Thundershowers	▲85	▼78
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲64	▼54
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼65
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲44	▼37
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲47	▼37
Paris	Sunny	▲49	▼31
Pusan	Sunny	▲47	▼36
Rome	Showers	▲62	▼44
Salem	Showers	▲48	▼38
San Francisco	Showers	▲59	▼46
Seoul	Sunny	▲43	▼27
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲47	▼36
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲51	▼40

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough located southwest of Palau extends from EQ134E to 5N130E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms can be found within 120 miles either side of the trough axis. Low-level wind flow convergence south of Yap is generating scattered showers between 4N and 7N from 135E to 140E. Another surface trough extends from 6N147E to a circulation centered near 10N151E to a second circulation located near 14N154E to end near 19N158E. Scattered showers can be bound 220 miles east and west of the trough axis north of 10N. A third surface trough stretches from 2N168E to 9N173E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the trough are found near Majuro between 2N and 9N from 168E to 173E. A shear line extends from 25N155E to 22N148E to 20N140E to 21N130E. Clouds and scattered showers can be found along and up to 150 miles north of the boundary.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:37 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
7:59 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
2:01 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
7:25 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:33 AM	6:25 PM
Saturday	6:32 AM	6:25 PM
Sunday	6:32 AM	6:26 PM
Monday	6:31 AM	6:26 PM
Tuesday	6:30 AM	6:26 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:48 AM	5:55 PM
Saturday	6:23 AM	6:41 PM
Sunday	6:58 AM	7:27 PM
Monday	7:34 AM	8:14 PM
Tuesday	8:10 AM	9:02 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	1, 3, ,4, 5, 6
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

CA988	3:15am	6:55am	1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
C09313/933	7:55am	9:25pm	3 via GUM
C09313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM-Palau
C09603/933	3:05pm	9:25pm	5 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL286	7:45pm	12:20am+1	2, 3, ,4 ,5, 7
DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:50am	2:20am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

CA987	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ716/603	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN
DL172/286	8:05am	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM-Palau
C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM-Palau
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	4 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

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  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Decision on added 15-year lease request known today

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI's 29 lawmakers will decide today whether to approve or disapprove JL Reyes Inc.'s proposal to extend its 25-year public land lease in Lower Base by an additional 15 years.

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) and Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) called for a joint session at 2pm today to act on the proposed land lease agreement extension.

Babauta

This is the first joint session for the year.

Under Article XI section 5(c) of the NMI Constitution, a 15-year extension of public land lease needs the approval of at least three-fourths of the members of the Legislature.

The House Committee on Natural Resources and the Senate Committee on Resources, Development and Programs jointly pre-filed on Wednesday Joint Session Resolution 17-2, granting approval of the extension of lease agreement No. LA 86-05S for JL Reyes Inc.

The public land being leased is approximately 4,530 square meters in Lower Base.

Public Lands Secretary Oscar M. Babauta wrote to the Legislature on Feb. 10 about the request from JL Reyes Inc. to extend the lease. The original 25-year lease was signed on March 26, 1986.

He said the Department of Public Lands supports the extension of this land lease, citing its benefits to the CNMI, including payment of gross receipt tax and maintenance of public lands.

Babauta, a former House speaker, said the lessee has maintained and used the property in its entirety instead of the property remaining idle.

The lessee has paid $37,439.15 since the execution of the land lease in 1986 to the present. It currently pays DPL $5,720 annually for the lease.

Should the 15-year extension be approved, the annual rental will be $4,720 for the first five years, the DPL secretary said.

The subsequent annual lease rentals will be based on 8 percent of the fair market value of the property, which will be reappraised every five years.

Former public works secretary John S. Reyes, who is the owner of JL Reyes Inc., said he hopes the Legislature will grant his request to extend the land lease agreement by 15 years.

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Must be 18 years or older

Category A: General Dislocated Workers. To qualify, an individual must meet the following three criteria:

1. Has been terminated or laid off, or has received a notice of termination or layoff, from employment;
2. Is eligible for or has exhausted entitlement to unemployment compensation; OR has been employed or attached to the workforce for a duration sufficient to demonstrate to WIA, but is not eligible for unemployment compensation due to insufficient earnings or having performed services for an employer that were not covered under a state unemployment compensation law; and
3. Is unlikely to return to a previous industry or occupation.

Category B: Plant Closure. To qualify, an individual must meet one of the following three criteria:

1. Has been terminated or laid off, or has received a notice of termination or layoff, from employment as a result of any permanent closure of, or any substantial layoff at, a plant, facility, or enterprise;
2. Is employed at a facility at which the employer has made a general announcement that such facility will close within 180 days; or
3. For purposes of eligibility to receive services other than training, intensive or supportive services under WIA, is employed at a facility at which the employer has made general announcement that such facility will close.

Category C: Self Employed or Unemployed. To qualify, an individual must meet the following criteria:

1. Was self employed (including employment as a farmer, a rancher, or a fisherman) but is unemployed as a result of general economic conditions in the community in which the individual resides or because of natural disasters.

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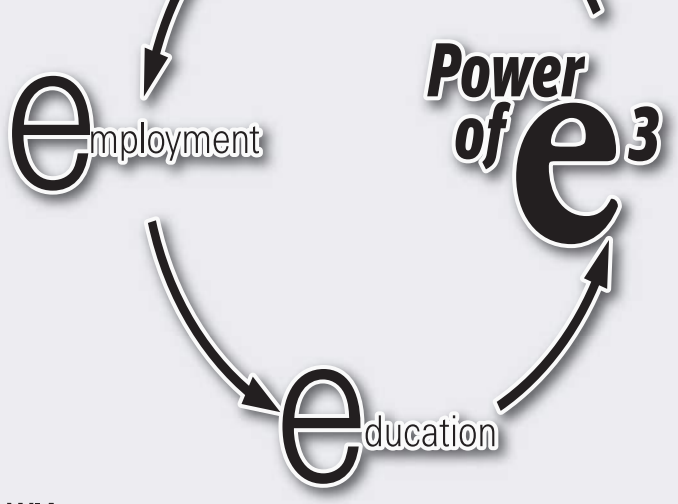

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Recipe contest highlights lack of healthy cooking know-how

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The first islandwide recipe contest, held as part of the National Nutrition Month celebration, showed that many people are not aware of healthy methods of preparing food, according to Public School System nutritionist Hee Jae Lee.

Lee, who chairs the CNMI Nutrition Month Committee, said the recipe contest had required the submission of original recipes that contain different "colors" or locally grown fruits and vegetables and exclude frying methods and use of monosodium glutamate.

"When the recipes were all submitted, we were very surprised at how little students and teachers actually knew what healthy recipes were," Lee said during a presentation at the Rotary Club of Saipan meeting on Tuesday.

According to Lee, people on island eat fruits and vegetables but do not really give much consideration about the method of cooking.

"We received a lot of recipes that were prepared with a lot of oil, use of a lot of coconut milk," she said.

Lee noted that coconut milk, which is delicious and part of the local culture, contains a lot of saturated fat, which is unhealthy.

"Although the culture promotes the use of coconut milk in cooking, coming from a nutrition background, the use of coconut milk must be discouraged and used sparingly," she said.

Because of this discovery, Lee said the Nutrition Month committee will turn the celebration into an educational opportunity to educate the public about healthier methods of food preparation.

National Nutrition Month is an annual nutrition education campaign initiated by the American Dietetic Association to promote informed food choices and sound eating and physical activity habits. This year's theme is "Eat Right with Color,"

"The Eat Right with Color theme aims to increase the fruit and vegetable consumption not only in the school children but by the public and to promote the corporate and community responsibility of providing healthy produce and healthy products to the general public," said Lee.

Lee also encouraged all restaurants, including small caterers and food vendors, to participate in the Nutrition Month celebration by promoting the use of local fruits and vegetables in their daily menu.

"The culture of Saipan, everything revolves around eating. We like to eat. Every meeting, every party, there's food everywhere. We want to encourage smaller restaurants to come on board, stop the method of deep frying on a daily basis, stop the use of MSG," she said.

She said restaurants and small caterers who join the promotion will be featured in articles that the committee will publish in local newspapers.

For more information about the Eat Right with Color campaign, contact Hee Jae Lee at 237-3050 or email heejae.lee@cnmipss.org. For more information about the National Nutrition Month, visit www.eatright.org.

Diabetes forum is a go for tomorrow

Dr. Dean Reedstrom of the Seventh-Day Adventist Clinic and Dr. James Hofschneider of the Medical Associates of the Pacific are joining the roster of presenters for the second diabetes community forum slated for tomorrow.

Vinycia Seman, Diabetes Coalition Education and Outreach Committee chair, disclosed that the two doctors will serve as panelists for the "CNMI-Wide Diabetes Health Community Forum: Highway to Better Health" at the Saipan Southern High School cafeteria from 8:30am to 3pm.

Organized by the Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition, Diabetes Prevention and Control Program of the Department of Public Health, and the Ayuda Network, the forum is a grassroots campaign against diabetes through targeted social and behavioral strategies.

Tomorrow's forum targets residents in As Lito, San Vicente, Dandan, Koblerville, and San Antonio.

Reedstrom and Hofschneider will join other presenters, including Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research, Extension and Education Services, Hardt Eye Clinic, Public School System, and nurse and community advocate Gregoria F. Omar.

Seman told *Saipan Tribune* that right before the forum, Department of Public Health staff will be available to administer 150 free flu vaccine shots beginning at 7am.

There will also be free blood pressure and blood sugar screenings from 7am to 8am as well as a health walk within the school grounds prior to the forum, also at 7am.

"Forum participants will also be provided with a healthy lunch with healthy portions of meat, starch and veggies, 75 percent of which are local produce," added Seman.

Diana Villagomez of the Ayuda Network said in a phone interview that all is set for Saturday's forum, with about a hundred already registered and more expected to sign up and attend tomorrow.

"We're really excited. We have about 15 partner agencies that will put up exhibits on Saturday. Everything is pretty much set," she said.

To sign up or for more information, call Ayuda Network at 234-7469. ***(Clarissa David)***

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Prosecution, defense rest in Quitano trial

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Closing arguments are expected to begin today, Friday, in the case against Fernando C. Quitano, who is on trial for attempted murder and other charges for his alleged role in the armed robbery of a pawnshop.

The prosecution and the defense rested their cases yesterday.

With the testimony of the government's final witness, assistant attorney general Russell Lorfing announced at 11am yesterday that the government is resting its case.

When trial resumed at 1:30pm yesterday, defense lawyer Stephen Woodruff made a motion for a judgment of acquittal. This was denied.

Woodruff then called to the witness stand detective Jesse Stole and former police officer Christopher Leon Guerrero. After their testimony, the defense rested its case.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman later excused the jurors as he and the counsels discussed the jury verdict form. Wiseman asked the counsels to return today, Friday, at 10am to finalize the verdict form.

After jury instructions, closing arguments may start today, Friday afternoon.

Woodruff told *Saipan Tribune* after the hearing yesterday that he was surprised that Wiseman did not grant his motion for a judgment of acquittal, specifically to the charges of contempt and attempted murder.

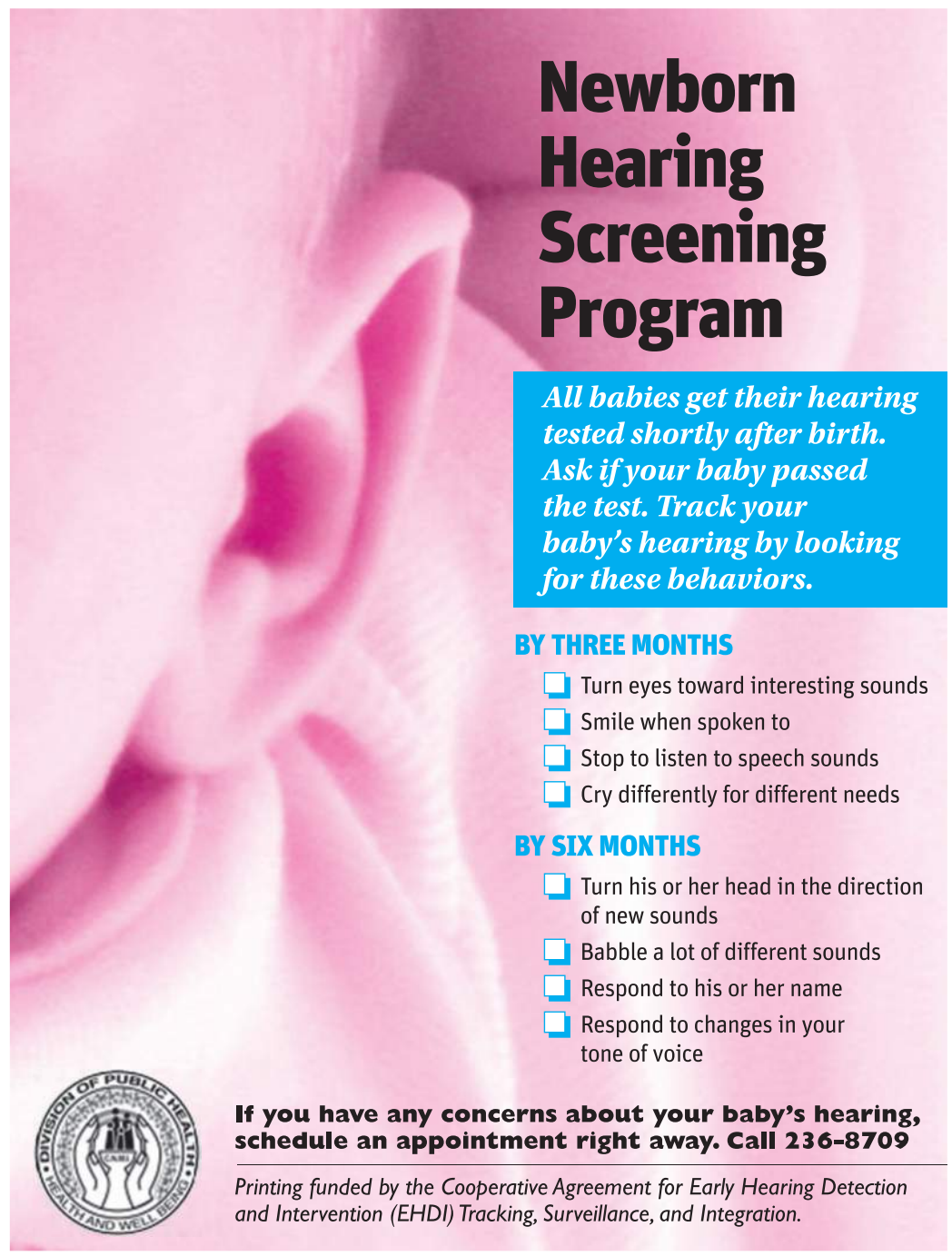
The Office of the Attorney General had charged Quitano, Marlon Martin, and Zhou Fan Zhang with two counts of aggravated assault and battery, two counts of assault and battery, two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon, one count of armed robbery, one count of theft, one count of contempt, two counts of attempted murder, one count of conspiracy to commit robbery, and one count of conspiracy to commit theft.

Martin has already pleaded guilty to armed robbery. He was sentenced in April 2010 to seven years in prison, with no parole.

The government dismissed the case against Zhang. The fourth suspect—Steven Suzuki—was not charged after he cooperated with the government in the investigation.

Two masked men staged a daylight armed robbery at 24 Hours Pawnshop in Chalan Kanoa on Oct. 23, 2009. The pawnshop's cashier and its 72-year-old owner, Jung Sang So, were injured in the attack.

Police identified the two as Quitano and Martin. Suzuki and Zhang were allegedly on a getaway vehicle.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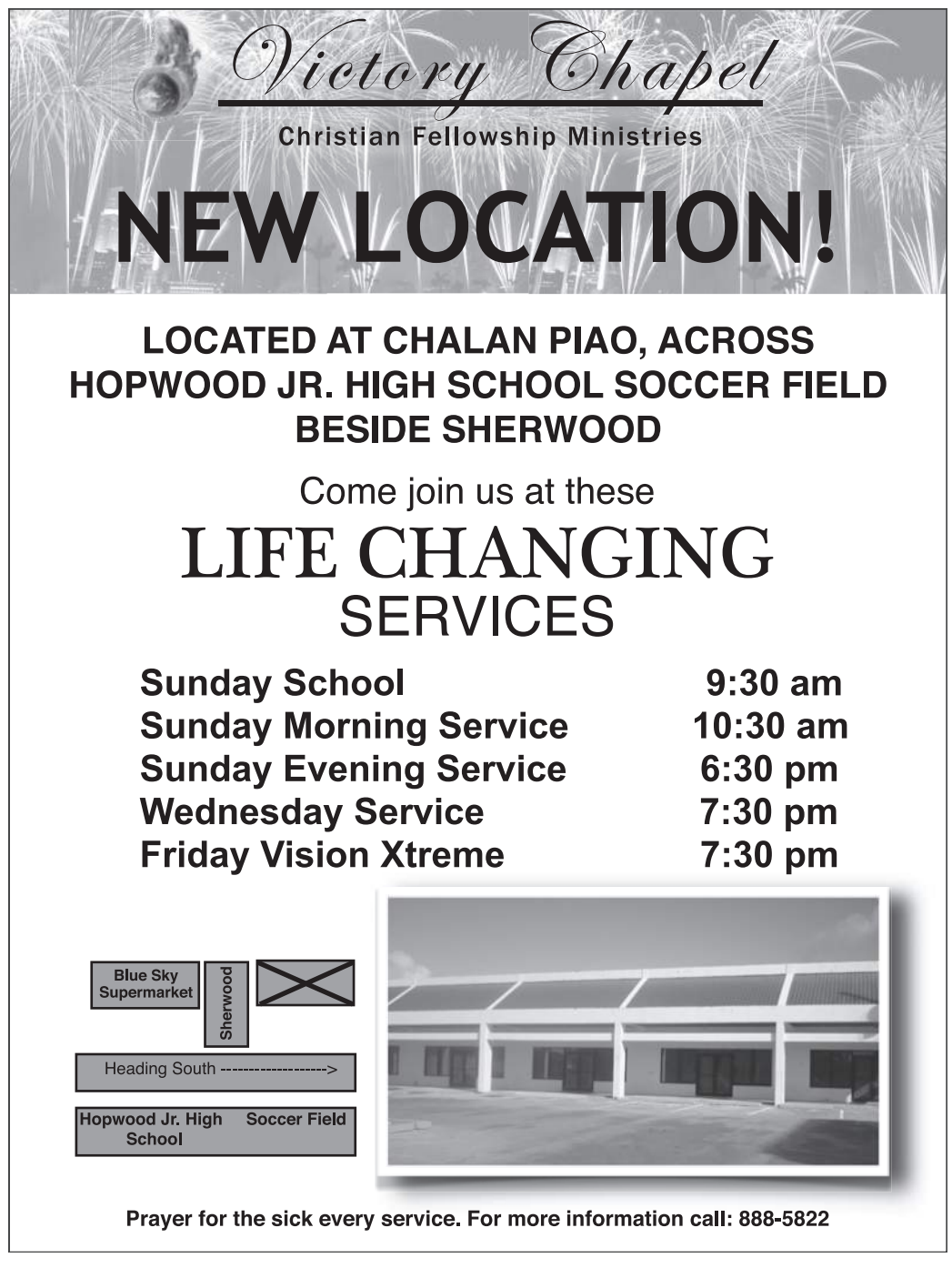

SCHOOL BREAKFAST DETECTIVES

Campaign clues in GES students to breakfast's importance

Just in time for Nutrition Month in March, Barny's Food Service and Garapan Elementary School are hosting "School Breakfast Detectives," a fun, private eye-themed campaign allowing students to "clue into" the importance of school breakfast and "uncover" how eating school breakfast sets one up for a busy day at school.

Students will be invited to join the campaign's characters, Cassie Day and Marlowe Darrington, on the Search for Super Energy! Student sleuths can submit a creative design for the "School Breakfast Detectives" book cover contest or sharpen their investigative skills with a number of nutrition puzzles. Kickoff for this exciting and colorful event will be on March 7, 2011, at 7am.

Every gumshoe has seen the evidence of the importance of breakfast to academic achievement, yet too many children miss out on the most critical meal of the day. Numerous investigations have shown that breakfast can improve a student's memory, test scores, school attendance, and cut down on visits to the school nurse. Research has also shown that children who eat breakfast each day have a higher intake of vitamins and minerals and maintain a healthier weight than those who skip.

Fortunately, every school day, Barny's Pizza through PSS-FNS's breakfast program offers students the healthy foods they need to remain on track during their busy school day. Breakfast is available every school day from 7am to 8am. Student share is .50 cents; for eligible students it's free. Every school breakfast served meets federal nutrition standards limiting fat and portion size.

The breakfast program is also a great option for children who aren't ready for breakfast when they roll out of bed.

"The morning routine for many families can be so hectic, and some children just aren't hungry before they leave for school," said Ernel M. Rubio, Barny's Food Services manager. "Knowing that your child can eat a healthy breakfast once they get to school can be a huge relief for parents."

"School Breakfast Detectives" was created by the nonprofit School Nutrition Association (in which Barny's Pizza is an industry member), in collaboration with Garapan Elementary School, the schools PTA Leadership, and with support from Yaong Corp. and Micronesian Brokers Inc.

This national campaign recognizes National School Breakfast Week, launched in 1989, to raise awareness of the availability of the School Breakfast Program to all children and the links between eating a good breakfast, academic achievement, and healthy lifestyles. ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy fourth birthday to our little diva, Jryden Jahzny Atalig Fejeran! You grow sweeter with each passing year. We love you! Greetings come from Mom, Dad, Jacoby, and Jayvehn.

Villagomez brothers receive academic recognitions

Two brothers from Saipan were recognized for their academic excellence and were given honors for their achievements.

Michael and Frank A. Villagomez Jr. are the sons of Frank and Rell Villagomez.

Mount Carmel School's 10th grader Frank Villagomez Jr. has been nominated for membership in the National Society of High School Scholars.

Claes Nobel, chairman of the national society, informed the young Villagomez of his nomination in a recent letter.

"Based on your outstanding academic achievement at Mount Carmel High School, you have been nominated for membership in NSHSS. Your hard work has placed you amongst a select group of students and has earned you this invitation to join other outstanding high school scholars in recognition of dedication and excellence," Nobel told the student.

Michael Villagomez

Frank Villagomez Jr.

Membership in the society provides a special opportunity for students to distinguish themselves based on outstanding scholastic achievement and academic excellence. The society also provides members with a variety of opportunities and resources, including access to scholarships, leadership development programs, service activities, and exclusive discounts. Each year the society awards over $100,000 in scholarships nationwide.

Meantime, Michael A. Villagomez was included in his university's dean's list for Spring 2010.

Michael Villagomez graduated from Mount Carmel School and is a sophomore at the California State Polytechnic University where he majors in electrical engineering. ***(Moneth G. Deposa)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NMC campuses closed today for workshop

All NMC employees will be participating in an accreditation workshop today, March 4, 2011, from 12:30pm to 4:30pm. All classes scheduled between 12:30pm and 5pm on this day have been canceled (except for classes that only meet once a week on Fridays). All NMC offices will also be closed during that time. The college apologizes for any inconvenience caused. ***(NMC)***

10 Saipan beach sites red-flagged

The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged the Central Repair Shop, DPW Channel Bridge, American Memorial Park, Hyatt Regency, Garapan Fishing Dock, Garapan Beach, Garapan Beach drainage, Chalan Laulau beach, Saipan World Resort, and Chalan Kanoa Dist. No. 2 Drainage and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said that samples collected from these locations had excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. Water samples were taken from 38 locations on Saipan coast on Wednesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

Judges needed for thespian contest

Judges are needed to help with this Saturday's thespian competition. Judges are asked to please report to the Marianas High School, Room 101D by 9:30am on Saturday, March 5, 2011. The events should be over by noon. Come and help nurture Saipan's youthful thespian talent. ***(PR)***

GMS to host fundraising walkathon

The general public is invited to participate in the Green Meadow School 2nd Annual Walkathon. Dubbed "2011 Walk for a Heart," the walkathon is a fundraising event of the GMS PTA. Money raised will be used to pay for the materials needed by GMS students who will be participating in the Parade of Books and contributing to the Make-A-Wish Foundation. ***(PR)***

UFO meeting today

There will be a general meeting of all UFO member organizations (president and secretary or representative of organization) sponsored by United Filipino Organization today, March 4, 2011, from 7pm to 9pm at the Filipino Workers Resource Center at the ground floor of Marianas Business Plaza.

The meeting will discuss the upcoming induction ceremony and community projects of UFO. All member organizations officers are encouraged to participate and support the meeting.

For more information, contact Bong Malasarte at 287-5525 or e-mail at bong@malasarte.com

Attention former 2010 Census employees

All former 2010 Census employees residing on Saipan are advised to pick up their W-2 forms at the Department of Commerce, Central Statistics Division on Capital Hill. W-2 forms for Rota and Tinian can be picked up at Commerce offices beginning next week. Bring a valid picture ID (i.e., driver's license, passport, municipal ID). If you need direction or have any question, call 664-3045/3077. ***(PR)***

Library Friends' meeting tomorrow

The Library Friends will have a meeting tomorrow, March 5, 2011, at 11am. There have been quite a few book donations coming in and many patrons are asking for another book sale. Input on any other activities that you think the organization should sponsor is encouraged. Please bring your enthusiasm and ideas. ***(PR)***

GES to host parent summit tomorrow

Garapan Elementary School will be hosting a parent summit tomorrow, March 5, 2011. All parents of GES students are encouraged to participate. The summit will consist of five workshops: Frequently Asked Questions from previous parent summits, Screamfree Parenting, Megaskills for parents, Standard and Benchmark Report Cards, T Goals, and GES Accreditation. Sign-in starts at 7:30am, the workshops begin at 8am, and will go until 12pm. Each workshop will last approximately 40 minutes. Parents who complete the summit will receive a certificate. There will also be food available for participants. ***(PR)***

See COMMUNITY on Page 20

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All drinks are 50% OFF
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Entertainment for this Friday:
Mario & Loreta

Cut & Save

TREATS FOR March

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With a bad economy that's tough on islanders' love for food, advertising promotions go a long way toward ensuring that dining out won't break the bank.

This March, *Saipan Tribune* brings to you a roster of dining spots that offer these timely promotions for food aficionados looking for enjoyable food at reasonable cost.

Aqua Resort Club

One of the island's leading hotel resorts and ideally situated in Achugao Beach, Aqua Resort Club presents its "Local Resident Special" for the entire month. For only $100 plus tax, residents can enjoy an overnight stay at any of Aqua Resort's deluxe rooms, with free breakfast for two and free use of the Fitness Center, Jacuzzi, and sauna.

Get a 20-percent discount when you dine at Aqua's fine dining restaurant, Raraina. What better way to end the day than by pampering yourself with a 60-minute massage at the ARC Health Spa and get 40 percent off your bill.

For reservation or appointment, call Gina at 322-1234 ext. 773 or email info@aquaresortsaipan.com.

Capricciosa

Having an unforgettable Italian dining experience on island is easy, thanks to Capricciosa. As a big thank you to all its patrons, Capricciosa is offering 15-percent off on all items in their spaghetti menu. Local residents can now savor great pasta at an affordable price.

Coconut Tei

If you're looking for a reasonably priced Japanese meal, check out Coconut Tei Restaurant in Garapan. Their delectable lunch set menu, which includes soup and bottomless iced tea, is only $7 per person and is available from 10am to 2pm.

If you can't make it there during lunch time, there's always the *a la carte* dinner menu from 6pm to 10pm, which offers a 20-percent discount for local residents. For information, call 234-3923.

E'sy Kitchen

You're in for a treat at E'sy Kitchen in Garapan, with their $7.50 lunch buffet that includes three hot entrees, soup, bottomless iced tea, salad bar, and desserts. If you're not in a mood for a feast, try their popular set menu lunch specials, also for $7.50.

Enjoy $3 beers and free appetizers during happy hour from Monday through Friday, 4:30pm to 6:30pm, with live acoustic performance from Bahjoh and Grace. Coupons for a 10-percent discount on food and 20 percent on drinks are available and can be applied to their dinner menu from 6pm to 10pm. For information, call 233-3550.

J's Restaurant

The restaurant that serves island residents 24/7 in both Gualo Rai and San Jose locations has a lunch set menu worth looking forward to. For only $6.25, customers can savor in J's Restaurant's popular dishes, including soup and a choice of iced coffee or iced tea, on weekdays except holidays. For information, call Gualo Rai branch at 235-8640 or San Jose branch at 234-6420.

McDonald's

The world's leading fastfood chain continues to provide burgers and sandwiches that the public has grown to love through the years. That is why McDonald's Saipan came up with a breakfast promo involving their savory Sausage, Egg & Cheese McGriddles. Upon presenting the coupon in either the Chalan Pale Arnold or Garapan Express stores, customers who buy 1 McGriddle Sandwich can get their second sandwich for half price. Coupons are accepted during breakfast hours from 6:30am to 10:30am until May 31.

Kinpachi Japanese Restaurant

Japanese food buffs are guaranteed satisfaction at Kinpachi Japanese Restaurant in Garapan. As part of its 30th anniversary celebration, Kinapachi offers their extensive $5 lunch menu from Monday through Saturday, 11:30am to 3pm, throughout March. In addition, Kinpachi is offering a 20 percent discount coupon for their dinner menu from 6pm to 10pm. For information, call 234-6900.

Sweets 'n Treats

Satisfy your sweet tooth with irresistible delights from Sweets 'n Treats at their new location on the ground floor of Morgen Building along Beach Road in San Jose. Present the discount coupons and avail of single scoop ice cream for $0.99; Hotdog combo consisting of two hotdog sandwiches and one drink for $5; and a choice of Milkshake, Deluxe Sundae or Brownie Sundae for only $3. Sweets 'n Treats is open daily from 11am to 7pm.

Tony Roma's

The restaurant chain famous worldwide for its baby back ribs and steaks is offering 15 percent discount on its St. Louis Ribs for its dinner menu. Visit their Garapan location and enjoy their flame-grilled ribs cooked to perfection.

Truong's

Customers in the mood for Vietnamese cuisine should drop by Truong's Restaurant in Susupe. Dine in guests will receive free original noodle soup for every order of any main dish. For information, call 235-8050 or 51.

Local Resident Special

$100 +TAX

Deluxe Room Over Night Stay
include Breakfast for 2, free usage of Fitness Center, Jacuzzi, and Sauna

40% OFF
on 60 minutes massage at ARC Health Spa

20% OFF
at Raraina Fine Dining

Offer ends March 31, 2011
Local ID is required. Subject to room availability.

ARC AQUA RESORT CLUB Saipan

For room reservation, please call Gina at 322-1234 ext. 773
e-mail: info@aquaresortsaipan.com

FREE
1 Original Noodle Soup
Get Free cup of soup for every order of main dish.
Menu # 11-47
TRUONG'S Vietnamese Restaurant

J's Restaurant
Set Menu for $6.25
Includes: Iced Coffee or Iced Tea and Soup
Served on weekdays except holidays
Available on both J's Restaurant branch.
Middle Road, Gualo Rai Tel. 235-8640 | Beach Road, San Jose Tel. 234-6420

30th Year Anniversary Celebration
Eat Right with Color Healthy Lunch
(no salt, no sugar, not deep fried)

March Special
$5.00 only
11:00am - 3:00pm

Mon
Chicken Teriyaki, Sashimi, Fruit, Salad, Coco, Rice and Napa Soup

Tues
Chicken Roll, Chopsuey, Sea Food barbecue, Fruit, Coco, Rice, Buck Wheat Noodle Soup

Wed
Yakitori, Eggplant sautéed in Miso, Sashimi, Coco, Rice, Buck Wheat Noodle Soup

Thurs
Grilled Saba, Hamburger with baked sweet potato, Salad, Coco, Rice, bean Sprout Soup

Fri
Syabu-syabu, Seafood barbecue, Sauteed Bitter Melon, Coco, Rice, Napa Soup

Sat
Yakitori, Seafood Kelaguen, Tofu, Coco, Rice, Buck Wheat Noodle Soup

Additional $ 1.00 per order for Mixed Grain Soy Bean rice in replacement of the plain rice.

Visit us for Dinner and enjoy 20% off your total bill
Offer valid from 6pm to 10pm only
Coupon will expire on March 31, 2011

金八 KINPACHI Japanese Restaurant
Kinpachi Restaurant open daily TEL: 234-6900 • Location: across from the Fiesta Resort & Spa

TONY ROMA'S FAMOUS FOR RIBS
St. Louis Ribs 15% OFF
Some conditions apply. Not applicable for lunch menu.

COCONUT TEI RESTAURANT 234-3923 across Hyatt Regency Hotel

20% COCONUT TEI 20% RESTAURANT
ENJOY 20% DISCOUNT off your total bill from our dinner menu
5:00pm to 10:00pm

LUNCH SET MENU
For only $7.00 includes soup and bottomlesss iced tea
8:00am to 2:00pm

Sweets 'n Treats
We've moved!
Visit us at our new location on the first floor of the Morgen Building, Beach Road, San Jose
Quality treats at affordable prices...
Single Scoop (Regular cone) for only $0.99
Hotdog Combo $5.00 Get two hotdogs and 1 drink (soda in can or bottled water)
Choice of Milkshake, Deluxe Sundae or Brownie Sundae for only $3.00
Open Daily from 11:00 am to 9:00 pm • Tel.: 235-1927

Ristorante Italiano CAPRICCIOSA
All-Spaghetti 15% OFF
Not applicable for lunch menu.

Puts the good into morning.
Sausage, Egg & Cheese McGriddles
Soft, warm griddle cakes with maple flavoring, fluffy folded eggs, savory sausage and melty American cheese. The taste you can't get anywhere else.

i'm lovin' it
Chalan Pale Arnold Hwy. 235-8577
Garapan Express 233-8577
Office Tel. 235-8761 - Fax. 235-8760
E-mail: mcdonalds@pticom.com
STORE HOURS: Chalan Pale Arnold Hwy.:6:30 AM to 10:00 PM
Garapan Express: OPEN 24 HRS. DAILY (24/7)

Buy 1 Sausage Egg Cheese McGriddle Sandwich and get your 2nd Sausage EggCheese McGriddle Sandwich for half price
Valid only at McDonald's® Chalan Pale Arnold Rd.
Offer valid during breakfast hours only (6:30am to 10:30am). Coupon expires May 31, 2011. Valid only at participating McDonald's Restaurant in Saipan Promo is not valid with any other promo, discount or coupon. Limit one coupon per person per visit. Coupon may not be copied or duplicated in any way or transmitted via electronic media. Valid when product is served.

E'sY kitchen SEA FOODS & COLD BEER SINCE 1992 GARAPAN ISLAND RESTAURANT
Local Promotion
LUNCH BUFFET $7.50 3 HOT ENTREES, SOUP, BOTTOMLESS ICED TEA, SALAD BAR & DESSERTS

OR
Lunch Specials (SET MENU)
FOR ONLY $7.50
Happy Hour
Monday to Friday • 4:30pm - 6:30pm
Bottled Beer for only $3.50
(FREE appetizer on the first night only)
Live performance by Bahjoh and Grace
Steaks and Seafoods are also available anytime.
For more information, please contact us at Tel: 233-3550, Fax: 233-3552 or Email: esy-kit@pticom.com
BUSINESS HOURS: LUNCH 11:30 am to 2:30 pm • DINNER 5:00 pm to 11:00 pm
Bring this ad and enjoy 10% discount on food and 20% discount on cocktail drinks
from our Dinner Menu. Valid from 6:00pm to 10:00pm only.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Approximately 89 participants attend the two-day workshop on the Tropical Energy Code on Feb. 17-18, 2011 at the Pacific Islands Club.

89 take part in workshop on Tropical Energy Code

The Department of Public Works' Division of Energy, in partnership with U.S. Department of Energy and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, concluded a two-day workshop on the Tropical Energy Code on Feb. 17-18, 2011 at the Pacific Islands Club. Instructors for the workshop were Michelle Britt and Eric Makela of PNNL's Technology Deployment & Planning.

The purpose of the workshop was to provide an insight into the compliance and enforcement of the Tropical Energy Code that was adopted on Aug. 27, 2009, for both residential and commercial buildings in the CNMI. To date, because of the added financial impact the Code would have on residential consumers wishing to construct homes, the only compliance being enforced by the CNMI Building Safety Code Division is that for commercial buildings.

About 89 participants attended the workshop on the first day, most of them engineers, architects, contractors, and stakeholders as well as representatives from the Department of Public Works Building Safety Code Division on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, Division of Energy, Technical Services Division and from the Public School System.

The workshop provided information on mandatory energy-efficient building provisions of the Tropical Energy Code, including the scope and application of the code for residential and commercial buildings with respect to building envelope, mechanical systems, and lighting systems. These included service water heating, power/lighting systems and cooling/ventilation for new residential and commercial buildings, including major alterations to existing buildings.

On day two, presenters spoke of issues related to building plan review for building envelope, mechanical and lighting systems that also included an inspection checklist for the review of three architectural and design plans used in the two-day event and site inspection of a building under construction at the Marianas High School.

At the site inspection, attendees were able to understand more what needed to be done and the things to look for in order to properly implement and enforce the Tropical Energy Code to ensure compliance.

The presenters and attendees also had the opportunity to meet and network with representatives of the contractor to discuss issues of the building plan and lighting and cooling systems based on the plan review process and gave comments toward how to better comply with the requirements of the Code.

Because of the number of participants in attendance, it is recommended that this type of workshop and training be provided again in the future to ensure effective compliance with the Tropical Energy Code.

This workshop was funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, State Energy Program through a grant under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. ***(PR)***

APARTMENT AND CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT

SPRING PROMOTION

UNTIL MARCH 31, 2011 (FOR 1 YEAR CONTRACT)

GILL BLAS CONDOMINIUM

Location : GARAPAN, SAIPAN
Landmark : Where 747 Dining & Bar is situated
Price : 1 BEDROOM - ~~$650.00~~ From $500.00~
: 2 BEDROOMS - ~~$850.00~~ From $650.00~
Features : Free Moving Service, Furnished Unit, Back-up Generator, Laundry Facility, On-Duty Security Guard at Night, Swimming Pool, 24 Hour Water Supply • Power and Water excluded

PASTEL INN APARTMENT

Location : SAN JOSE, SAIPAN
Landmark : Right besides Roshi's Store
Price : STUDIO TYPE - ~~$350.00~~ From $250.00~
: 2 BEDROOMS - ~~$550.00~~ From $400.00~
: OFFICE SPACE (928 SQ. FT.) - ~~$1,000.00~~ From $700.00~
Features : Free Moving Service, Furnished Unit, Back-up Generator, Laundry Facility, Broad parking space, Spacious yard, Swimming Pool, 24 Hour Water Supply • Power and Water excluded

SEDA BLANCA APARTMENT

Location : GARAPAN, SAIPAN
Landmark : Close to 747 Dining & Bar
Room type : STUDIO-TYPE, and 1 BEDROOM
Price : ~~$450.00~~ From $350.00~
Features : Free Moving Service, Furnished Unit, Back-up Generator, Laundry Facility, 24 Hour Water Supply
Power and Water excluded

ANAKS OCEAN VIEW HILL SAIPAN

Location : PUERTO RICO, SAIPAN
Landmark : Close to Bank of Hawaii
Room type : 2 BEDROOMS AND 3 BEDROOMS
Price : ~~$1,500.00~~ From $1,200.00~
Features : Free Moving Service, Furnished Unit, Back-up Generator, Laundry & Dryer, Swimming Pool & Tennis Court, 24 Hour Fresh Water Supply • Power and Water excluded

YOUNGS BUILDING

Location : MIDDLE ROAD, SAIPAN
Landmark : Where Pacific Quick Print is situated
Area : 760 SQ. FT. (2nd FLOOR ONLY)
Price : $500.00~
Features : Parking Lot, Power and Water excluded

ATOM'S
MANAGEMENT & CONSULTING
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We also accommodate Daily, Weekly or Monthly basis.

For further details: You can visit ATOM's CO., LTD. office, located in Garapan, Saipan.
Our office hour is 9:00 am to 6:00 pm on weekdays and 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm on weekends.
You can also contact us thru phone at 233-8880 or send us an e-mail at atoms@pticom.com

COMMUNITY

From Page 17

DEQ brigade sets cleanup tomorrow

The Division of Environmental Quality's monthly cleanup brigade will be picking up trash at Pau Pau Beach in San Roque tomorrow, March 5, 2011. If you would like to volunteer, meet the DEQ representative on Saturday at 8am in the parking lot. Volunteers will split into groups and clean east and west until 10am, break for drinks, and then continue, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will get a brigade cap and those who took part in at least three cleanups will get a green brigade t-shirt. For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500/1. ***(DEQ)***

Oleai school sets PTSA meeting

The PTSA officers of Oleai Elementary School would like to inform parents and guardians of OES that there will be a PTSA meeting on Tuesday, March 8, 2011, at 6pm in the school cafeteria. Everyone is encouraged to attend. ***(PR)***

Veteran outreach on Rota, Saipan

This is to let all veterans, and all concern that on April 4-7, 2011, Tina San Augustine, the federal Department of Veterans Affairs legal administrative specialist from Guam, and Ruth Coleman, executive officer of the Office of Military/Veterans Affairs, will be on Rota and Saipan for an outreach on veterans' federal benefits. They will be also entertaining questions and assisting with claims.

- Rota: April 4-5, 2011, 8:30am-4:30pm at the Rota WIA office
- Saipan: April 6-7, 2011, 8:30am-4:30pm at the Office of the Military/Veterans Affairs on Capitol Hill, building 1364

To make an appointment or for further information, call Coleman or Bernie Dela Cruz at the Office of Military/Veterans Affairs at 664-2650. ***(PR)***

Business

Fed boss sees no quick end to state budget woes

WASHINGTON (AP)—State and local governments will struggle with budget shortfalls even as the U.S. economy picks up speed, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said Wednesday.

"Governors, mayors and legislators will confront more tough decisions as they develop their budgets for fiscal year 2012," Bernanke said in a speech in New York.

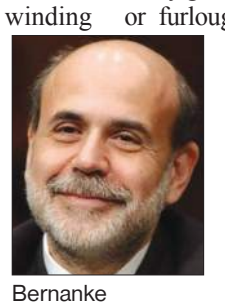
State and local governments have cut spending, laid off workers and raised taxes in an effort to close budget gaps. Those moves have been a "headwind on the economy recovery," Bernanke said.

Still, he said he believes the national economy will strengthen this year.

That might start to give states and localities "a little breathing space," he said. But he added that it will take "some time" for many states to regain their financial health. He didn't provide a timetable.

Bernanke ticked off a number of reasons why states and localities will continue to struggle even as the national economy improves.

Unemployment remains high at 9 percent. Businesses are operating well below full capacity because customer demand is growing, but not booming. Stimulus grants from the federal government are winding down this year and will largely have ended by next year. And, demand on Medicaid and other social service programs will probably remain elevated. Medicaid caseloads rose to more than 50 million in June 2010, an increase of nearly 18 percent from the start of the recession in December 2007.


Bernanke

Even with stimulus grants from the federal government, many governments have laid off or furloughed workers, frozen salaries and cut other expenses, Bernanke said. Job cuts have been especially deep at the local level, where payrolls have fallen roughly 350,000, or more than 2 percent, over the past 2 1/2 years. Nearly, half of the local job losses have been in education, he said.

Deeper spending cuts by state and local governments weighed down economic growth in the final three months of last year. The government reported last week that economic growth increased at an annual rate of 2.8 percent in the final quarter of last year. That was down from an initial estimate of 3.2 percent.

Concerns about current state and local budget problems along with longer-term worries about their ability to fulfill pension obligations and provide health benefits have led to strains in municipal bond markets. Yields on municipal bonds have risen as jittery investors have left the market.

Investors pull billions from emerging markets

BANGKOK (AP)—Investors disillusioned by the implosion of Wall Street titans, economic anemia in Japan, and a debt debacle in Europe have found abundant opportunities to grow wealth in industrializing economies like China and India.

But now, as angry populations roil one Middle Eastern regime after the next, and discontent over escalating food prices and lagging living standards is heard elsewhere in the developing world, investors are moving staggering piles of cash out of emerging markets—and back into what they hope are the relatively stable havens of the U.S., Europe and Japan.

That represents a major shift in sentiment since the financial crisis in 2008 upended conventional wisdom as to what is risky and what is safe as the U.S. model of freewheeling capitalism teetered on the brink of collapse.

Strenuous efforts by Europe to contain its debts, the ability of Japan's crucial export sector to weather a strengthening yen and strong corporate earnings in the U.S. have played a big part in convincing investors that the outlook is pretty promising for advanced economies in 2011.

According to fund tracker EPFR Global, fund managers and other investors yanked $5.45 billion from emerging markets funds in China, India, Brazil and elsewhere in the second week of February and placed it in equity funds of advanced economies—their biggest weekly inflow in more than 30 months.

Developed market funds recorded their seventh straight week of inflows in mid-February—with European equity fund flows hitting 41-week highs. So far this year, investors have committed $47 billion to U.S., European, Japanese and global equity funds—$29 billion of it into the U.S alone.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oil jumps above $102 per barrel

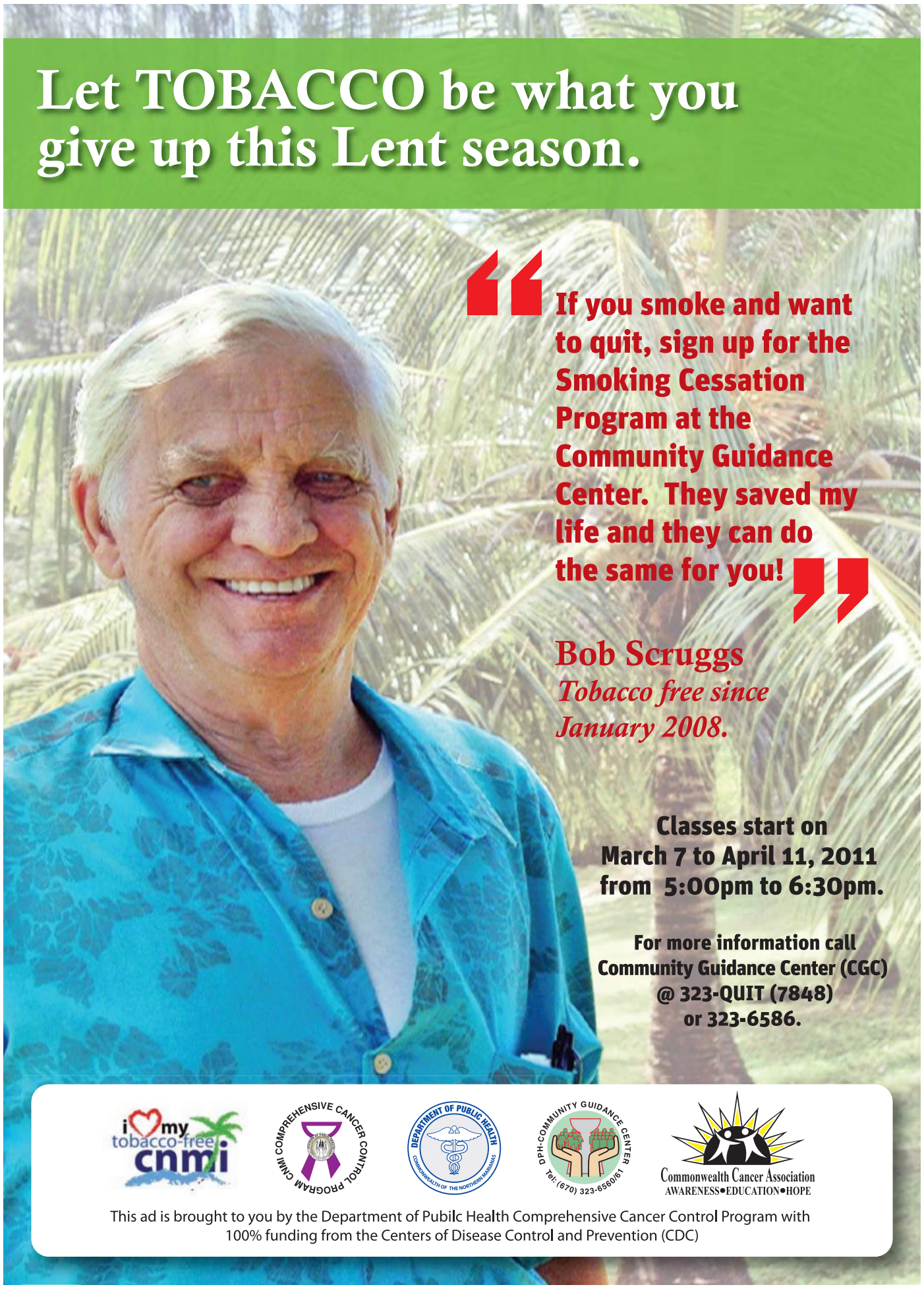
NEW YORK (AP)—Oil prices settled above $102 per barrel for the first time since September of 2008 as fighting escalated in Libya and petroleum demand grew in the U.S. Libya, a major oil exporter to Europe, has been embroiled in an uprising that has shut down oil production in many parts of the country. Forces loyal to Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi used airstrikes in a battle against protesters for control of a key oil installation in the eastern half of the country. Analysts are concerned that the rebellion will endanger Libya's oil fields, which produce 1.6 million barrels per day. That's only about 2 percent of global demand, but experts say the disruption is putting pressure on world supplies at a time when demand is picking up.

Zimbabwe to seize foreign businesses

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—Zimbabwe's defiant president has threatened to seize foreign businesses in retaliation for Western economic sanctions targeting him and his supporters over alleged human rights abuses in the southern African nation. President Robert Mugabe made special mention on Wednesday of British-controlled banks and businesses, saying British interests controlled 400 businesses in the former British colony. "It is time now to take action and to start looking at these companies we must take over," Mugabe told a rally at the start of a campaign to gather two million signatures for a national petition to take over the businesses.

GOP wins first budget skirmish, bigger fight looms

WASHINGTON (AP)—Republicans won an early round Wednesday in their fight to shrink the government, pushing $4 billion in spending cuts through Congress in a bill that puts off the possibility of a government shutdown for two weeks. Largely a spectator so far, President Barack Obama dispatched his vice president to initiate negotiations on a broader, longer-term spending bill and find "common ground" with GOP leaders determined to cut tens of billions of dollars more and undo much of his agenda. He conceded in advance that any deal on a government budget covering the next seven months will feature cuts, not just the long-term freeze he proposed last month.


Let TOBACCO be what you give up this Lent season.
"If you smoke and want to quit, sign up for the Smoking Cessation Program at the Community Guidance Center. They saved my life and they can do the same for you!"
Bob Scruggs
Tobacco free since January 2008.
Classes start on March 7 to April 11, 2011 from 5:00pm to 6:30pm.
For more information call Community Guidance Center (CGC) @ 323-QUIT (7848) or 323-6586.
i ♥ my tobacco-free cnmi
Comprehensive Cancer Control Program CNMI
Department of Public Health Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
DPH-Community Guidance Center Tel: (670) 323-6560/61
Commonwealth Cancer Association AWARENESS•EDUCATION•HOPE
This ad is brought to you by the Department of Pubilc Health Comprehensive Cancer Control Program with 100% funding from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Nation

Wisconsin stalemate could drag on for months

MADISON, Wis. (AP)—Wisconsin's budget stalemate over union bargaining rights shows no sign of resolution—and it could be a long wait.

The governor isn't budging. AWOL Democrats aren't planning to come back. And, despite talk of deadlines and threats of mass layoffs, the state doesn't really have to pass a budget to pay its bills until at least May. Even then, there may be other options that could extend the standoff for months.

"This is a battle to the death," said Mordecai Lee, a political scientist at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. "Unless one party can come up with a compromise that the other party will buy, which I doubt, this really could go on indefinitely. I could see this going on until the summer."

The confrontation began Feb. 11, when Republican Gov. Scott Walker proposed legislation that would strip most public workers of their collective bargaining rights as part of a plan to fix a budget deficit projected to be $137 million by July.

Democrats, who are in the minority in the Legislature, hightailed it for the Illinois border on the day the Senate was to adopt the bill. Their absence left the chamber one member short of the quorum needed for a vote.

Two weeks later, Republicans are becoming increasingly creative in their attempts to lure the 14 Democrats home. They've tried cutting off access to copying machines for their staff and requiring lawmakers to pick up their checks at the Capitol rather than having them deposited directly in bank accounts.

On Wednesday, the Senate passed a resolution imposing a $100 fine for each day the Democrats remain on the run. Republican senators were also assigned to oversee the staff members of the missing Democrats.

State Sen. Chris Larson said the fines show that Republicans are becoming "increasingly petty." He said none of the Democrats flinched after learning of the move. He was resolved to stay away as long as necessary.

AP

Madison, Wis. firefighter Carlo Berridge, right, holds a Wisconsin state flag outside the Capitol as law enforcement personnel limit access into the building Wednesday, March 2, 2011.

Supreme Court: Anti-gay funeral picketers allowed

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Supreme Court ruled Wednesday that a grieving father's pain over mocking protests at his Marine son's funeral must yield to First Amendment protections for free speech. All but one justice sided with a fundamentalist church that has stirred outrage with raucous demonstrations contending God is punishing the military for the nation's tolerance of homosexuality.

The 8-1 decision in favor of the Westboro Baptist Church of Topeka, Kan., was the latest in a line of court rulings that, as Chief Justice John Roberts said in his opinion for the court, protects "even hurtful speech on public issues to ensure that we do not stifle public debate."

The decision ended a lawsuit by Albert Snyder, who sued church members for the emotional pain they caused by showing up at his son Matthew's funeral. As they have at hundreds of other funerals, the Westboro members held signs with provocative messages, including "Thank God for dead soldiers," ``You're Going to Hell," ``God Hates the USA/ Thank God for 9/11," and one that combined the U.S. Marine Corps motto, Semper Fi, with a slur against gay men.

Justice Samuel Alito, the lone dissenter, said Snyder wanted only to "bury his son in peace." Instead, Alito said, the protesters "brutally attacked" Matthew Snyder to attract public attention. "Our profound national commitment to free and open debate is not a license for the vicious verbal assault that occurred in this case," he said.

ACROSS THE NATION

Gingrich to start testing presidential bid

ATLANTA (AP)—Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich will begin raising money to test whether a bid for the GOP presidential nomination is feasible, his spokesman told The Associated Press Wednesday night. Gingrich is set to talk about the step at a news conference Thursday at the state Capitol in his home state of Georgia where he has a meeting with the governor. Rick Tyler told the AP that Gingrich "is entering the exploratory phase" of a presidential candidacy. He is stopping short of setting up an exploratory committee, which would have made him a legal candidate. Gingrich and his wife, Callista, oversee a web of commercial and nonprofit ventures and must tie up some loose ends with those businesses before they can take that step, Tyler said.

Army charges WikiLeaks suspect with more offenses

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Army said Wednesday it has filed 22 additional charges against Pvt. 1st Class Bradley E. Manning, the soldier suspected of providing classified government documents published by the WikiLeaks anti-secrecy group. Army officials said the charges accuse Manning of using unauthorized software on government computers to extract classified information, illegally download it and transmit the data for public release by what the Army termed "the enemy." The charges follow seven months of Army investigation.

2 children, stuffed in bags, found in Fla. canal

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP)—The bodies of two children—one stuffed in a suitcase, the other in a duffle bug—were found Wednesday in a South Florida canal and police divers planned to go back to find more clues, authorities said. A resident spotted the duffle bag around 9 a.m. in Delray Beach, and police opened it to find a girl believed to be 6 to 10 years old. Divers found a boy later in the afternoon. "These kids could be from anywhere," said Sgt. Nicole Guerriero, a police spokeswoman. She noted the canal is crossed by a number of major roadways, including Interstate 95.

Sirhan Sirhan denied parole in 1968 RFK killing

COALINGA, Calif. (AP)—A California board on Wednesday denied parole for Robert F. Kennedy's convicted assassin, Sirhan Sirhan, saying after a four hour hearing that he hadn't shown adequate remorse or understanding of the severity of the crime that was mourned by a nation more than 40 years ago. Sirhan, now 66, spoke at length and expressed sorrow, but said he doesn't remember shooting Kennedy or five other victims in the kitchen of the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles, where Kennedy stood moments after claiming victory in the California presidential primary "Every day of my life, I have great remorse and deep regret," he told a panel of two parole board commissioners at Pleasant Valley State Prison in Coalinga.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP11-CHC-058

SUBMISSION: APRIL 06, 2011 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"RADIOLOGICAL SERVICES AND TENANCY FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTH CENTER"

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKAGE MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-BID MEETING WILL BE HELD ON **MARCH 22, 2011 AT 10:00 A.M.**, AT THE SECRETARY'S OFFICE, LOCATED AT THE DR. JOSE T. VILLAGOMEZ BUILDING, LOWER NAVY HILL. ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO **MS. ESTHER L. MUNA, MHA ACTING DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATION** BY FAX TO: 9670) 234-8930 OR E-MAILED TO ***esther.muna@dph.gov.mp*** NO LATER THAN **MARCH 28, 2011 CLOSE OF BUSINESS**

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ **JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ**
SECRETARY OF HEALTH

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP11-DEQ-060

SUBMISSION: APRIL 05, 2011 • TIME: 3:00 P.M.

"SAIPAN STORMWATER QUALITY SAMPLING AND WATERSHED BOUNDARY DELINEATION FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY"

THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT IS AVAILABLE AT THE DEQ FRONT DESK OR CAN BE RECEIVED ELECTRONICALLY BY CONTACTING THE CRM NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION COORDINATOR AT (670) 664-8305, OR BY EMAILING ***rachel.zuercher@crm.gov.mp***

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MAY BE FAXED TO MR. FRANK M. RABAULIMAN AT (670) 664-8540 NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, **MARCH 22, 2011.**

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE ***IS NOT AVAILABLE***, BECAUSE IT'S USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ **FRANK M. RABAULIMAN**
DIRECTOR OF DEQ

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP11-DPH-061

SUBMISSION: APRIL 05, 2010 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"OUTSIDE GROUND MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH"

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKAGE MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO **MR. JOHN M. TAGABUEL, ACTING DEPUTY SECRETARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATION** BY FAX TO: (670) 664-4871 OR E-MAILED TO ***divbeh1@pticom.com*** NO LATER THAN **MARCH 22, 2011 CLOSE OF BUSINESS.**

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 150118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/S/ JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ
SECRETARY OF HEALTH

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR THE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER (ATCT) PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-001-11

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for Preventive Maintenance of the Air Traffic Control Tower (ATCT) at the Saipan International Airport on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope of work entails providing monthly maintenance services for the Tower, the Base Building and its surroundings. The proposal package which includes the scope of work, selection criteria, and draft agreement will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building on Monday, February 21, 2011. Proposers must submit all required documents listed in the scope of work- All responses to this RFP shall also take into account any and all costs that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project. Proposers shall also take into consideration all necessary badging requirements and fees for this project.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows~ *"Proposal for tile Preventive Maintenance of the Air Traffic Control Tower at the Saipan International Airport"*. One original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2011**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

Contractor will be required to obtain insurance policies based on CPA's requirements- Copies of the insurance requirements may be obtained with the scope of work at the office of the Executive Director.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ **EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO**
Executive Director
Date: Feb. 18, 2011

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR JANITORIAL SERVIES
RFP #11-02

SERVICES REQUIRED

The Marianas Public Land Trust (MPLT), a public trust of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands requests proposals from interested firms to provide janitorial services for MPLT office located on 1313 Anatahan Drive, Capital Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

SCOPE OF SERVICES

Provide weekly general janitorial services for the MPLT office comprising of approximately 1,600 sq ft. Specifications can be picked up at the MPLT office or access at the MPLT website.

PACKAGES & SUBMITTAL DATE

Please submit letter of interest to include monthly rate to the attention of **Barbara Reyes,** Office Manager, Marianas Public Land Trust P.O. Box 501089, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 4:00 P.M., Thursday, March 17, 2011.

Interested firms are welcome to conduct a survey of the site.

This public notice is also available on our website at www.mplt.gov.mp. If there are any questions relative to this notice, interested parties are asked to contact Ms. Barbara Reyes during the hours stated above.

Asia

ASIAN BRIEFS

Official: No chance of more NZ quake survivors

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—New Zealand declared the effort to find anyone else alive in the rubble of last week's massive earthquake to be over Thursday, saying no one who was trapped could have survived this long. Families of more than 200 people listed as missing after the quake devastated the southern city of Christchurch on Feb. 22 had been holding out hope that a remarkable survival story would yet emerge. Officials say many of those listed as missing are among 161 bodies recovered but that have not yet been identified. "We now face the reality that there is no chance that anyone could have survived this long, and efforts have to shift to the recovery of loved ones and their return to their families," Civil Defense Emergency Management national controller John Hamilton told a news conference Thursday.

China warns int'l media not to cover protest calls

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese police have told foreign media not to turn up at spots that have been anonymously designated for weekly protests, threatening them with loss of their work permits and other punishments if they don't comply, journalists said Thursday. Mysterious online calls for Chinese rallies inspired by Middle Eastern demonstrations have fallen flat here though foreign media have flocked to the proposed rally sites to see if anyone would show up. Though no large protests have occurred, at least one activist has been detained for being present at a proposed demonstration site. At least one journalist was attacked by unidentified men while trying to report at a suggested rally site in Beijing last weekend and many others were harassed by police who confiscated equipment and erased video footage.

SKorea: NKorea bolstering control over society

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A top South Korean official says that North Korea is strengthening control over the flow of outside information amid a push to transfer power from leader Kim Jong Il to his youngest son. Foreign Minister Kim Sung-hwan says in a speech released in advance that North Korea wants a stable succession process. Kim's speech was to be delivered in a meeting with foreign diplomats in Seoul on Thursday. The foreign minister says a propaganda campaign promoting Kim Jong Il's son Kim Jong Un is under way in North Korea.

Militants kill Christian minister in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Militants gunned down the only Christian in Pakistan's government outside his widowed mother's home Wednesday, the second assassination in two months of a high-profile opponent of laws that impose the death penalty for insulting Islam. Shahbaz Bhatti was aware of the danger he faced, saying in a videotaped message that he had received death threats from al-Qaida and the Taliban.

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH MARCH 2011

Together The Future is Brighter!

MARCH 01, 2011 (TUESDAY)

PROCLAMATION SIGNING:
By: ***Acting Governor, Eloy S. Inos***
Venue: Governor's Conference Room
Time: 2:00pm – 2:30pm

MARCH 02, 2011 (WEDNESDAY)

2011 CDD Survey
Conductors: Ray Diaz, AT Coordinator & Lillian S. Ada, Planner, CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities
Venue: Kagman Village (Home Visits)
Time: 9:00am – 4:00pm
The CNMI Developmental Disabilities Network requests your input in shaping our efforts over the next five years.

Note: Please call the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities at 664-7000/1/2 or cell 287-7006 if you wish to participate in taking the survey or for more information.

MARCH 03, 2011 – (THURSDAY)

2011 CDD Survey
Conductors: Ray Diaz, AT Coordinator & Lillian S. Ada, Planner, CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities
Venue: Kagman Village (Home Visits)
Time: 9:00am – 4:00pm

The CNMI Developmental Disabilities Network requests your input in shaping our efforts over the next five years.

Note: Please call the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities at 664-7000/1/2 or cell 287-7006 if you wish to participate in taking the survey or for more information.

MARCH 05, 2011 (SATURDAY)

2011 CDD Survey
Conductors: Ray Diaz, AT Coordinator & Lillian S. Ada, Planner, CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities
Activity: CNMI Diabetes Coalition Forum
Venue: Southern High School (Koblerville)
Time: 8:00am – 2:00pm

The CNMI Developmental Disabilities Network requests your input in shaping our efforts over the next five years.

Note: Please call the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities at 664-7000/1/2 or cell 287-7006 if you wish to participate in taking the survey or for more information.

MARCH 08, 2011 (TUESDAY)

Webinar: **"Quick Checks for PDF Accessibility"** *Methods to check a PDF file for accessibility as well as make changes to the PDF to meet accessibility guidelines*
Venue: CNMI Council's Conference Room Building #1312, Capitol Hill
Time: 5:30am – 6:30am

Note: Please call the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities at 664-7000/1/2 or cell 287-7006 to register or for more information.

MARCH 09 2011 (WEDNESDAY)

Self – Advocacy Training
Presenters: Ray D. Diaz & Lillian S. Ada
Time: 9:00am – 11:30am
Venue: Center for Living Independently

Note: Please call the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities at 664-7000/1/2 or cell 287-7006 to register or for more information.

MARCH 10, 2011 (THURSDAY)

Self-Advocacy Training
Presenters: Ray D. Diaz & Lillian S. Ada
Time: 9:00am – 11:30am
Venue: Center for Living Independently

Please note: Seating is limited.

Note: Please call the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities at 664-7000/1/2 or cell 287-7006 to register or for more information.

MARCH 11, 2011 (FRIDAY)

Webinar: **"Social Security 101: What's in it for me?"**
This webinar is designed to reach young adults, ages 18-24, and will explore how Social Security works - how it's funded, what the FICA tax is, and how the program is relevant to college students and young workers. The webinar will also include tips on saving and planning for a secure financial future.

Presenters: Social Security Administration
Time: 6:00 am
Venue: CNMI Council on DD

Please note: Seating is limited.

MARCH 11, 2011 (FRIDAY)

Self-Advocacy Training
Presenters: Ray D. Diaz & Lillian S. Ada
Time: 9:00am – 11:30am
Venue: Center for Living Independently

Note: Please call the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities at 664-7000/1/2 or cell 287-7006 to register or for more information.

MARCH 15, 2011 (TUESDAY)

Legislative Visit
Coordinators: Ray D. Diaz & Lillian S. Ada
Time: 9:00am
Venue: CNMI Legislature, Capitol Hill

Note: Please call the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities at 664-7000/1/2 or cell 287-7006 for more information.

MARCH 16, 2011 (WEDNESDAY)

Sensitivity Training *for Transportation Service Providers*
Presenter: Ray D. Diaz
Time: 9:00am – 11:00am
Venue: TBA

Legislative Visit
Coordinator: Ray D. Diaz & Lillian S. Ada
Time: TBA
Venue: CNMI Legislature, Capitol Hill

Note: Please call the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities at 664-7000/1/2 or cell 287-7006 for more information.

MARCH 17, 2011 (THURSDAY)

Sensitivity Training *for Landlords & Realtors*
Presenters: Ray D. Diaz & Lillian S. Ada
Time: 9:00am – 11:00am
Venue: TBA

Note: Please call the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities at 664-7000/1/2 or cell 287-7006 for more information.

MARCH 30, 2011 (WEDNESDAY)

Assistive Technology Fair
Presenter: TBA
Time: 9:00am – 4:00pm
Venue: Fiesta Resort Hotel

Functional Behavior Assessment Training
for teachers and parents to understand behavior
Presenter: Jerry Diaz
Time: 5:00pm – 8:00pm
Venue: Fiesta Resort Hotel

Interested individuals requesting special accommodations (sign language interpreter, braille, or alternative formats) are asked to notify the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities at least 5 days in advance of their special accommodations needs. This will give the organizers ample time to coordinate and provide the accommodation.

For more information, please contact CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities Office at 664-7000/7001/7002/ or Fax at 664-7030 or 511 or 711 - Telecommunication Relay Service

Event is sponsored by the following, CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities, AT Project, in collaboration with NMC- UCEDD and NMPASI.

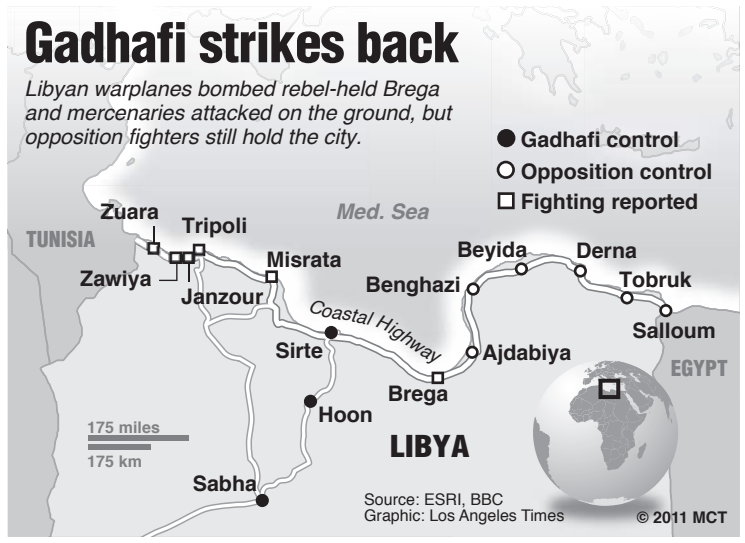
World

Rebels corner fleeing Gadhafi forces after battle

BREGA, Libya (AP)—Rebel forces routed troops loyal to Moammar Gadhafi in a fierce battle over an oil port Wednesday, scrambling over the dunes of a Mediterranean beach through shelling and an airstrike to corner their attackers. While they thwarted the regime's first counteroffensive in eastern Libya, opposition leaders still pleaded for outside airstrikes to help them oust the longtime leader.

The attack on Brega, a strategic oil facility 460 miles (740 kilometers) east of Gadhafi's stronghold in Tripoli, illustrated the deep difficulties the Libyan leader's armed forces—an array of militiamen, mercenaries and military units—have had in rolling back the uprising that has swept over the entire eastern half of Libya since Feb. 15.

In the capital of Tripoli, Gadhafi warned against U.S. or other Western intervention, vowing to turn Libya into "another Vietnam," and saying any foreign troops coming into his country "will be entering hell and they will drown in blood."



At least 10 anti-Gadhafi fighters were killed and 18 wounded in the battle for Brega, Libya's second- largest petroleum facility, which the opposition has held since last week. Citizen militias flowed in from a nearby city and from the opposition stronghold of Benghazi hours away to reinforce the defense, finally repelling the regime loyalists.

The attack began just after dawn, when several hundred pro-Gadhafi forces in 50 trucks and SUVs mounted with machine guns descended on the port, driving out a small opposition contingent and seizing control of the oil facilities, port and airstrip. But by afternoon, they had lost it all and had retreated to a university campus 5 miles (7 kilometers) away.

There, opposition fighters besieged them, clambering from the beach up a hill to the campus as mortars and heavy machine gun fire blasted around them, according to an Associated Press reporter at the scene. They took cover behind grassy dunes, firing back with assault rifles, machine guns and grenade launchers. At one point, a warplane struck in the dunes to try to disperse them, but it caused no casualties and the siege continued.

"The dogs have fled," one middle-aged fighter shouted, waving his Kalashnikov over his head in victory after Gadhafi's forces withdrew from the town before dusk. Car horns honked and people fired assault rifles in the air in celebration.

For the past week, pro-Gadhafi forces have been focusing on the west, securing Tripoli and trying to take back nearby rebel-held cities. But the regime has seemed to struggle to bring an overwhelming force to bear against cities largely defended by local residents using weapons looted from storehouses and backed by allied army units.

Pro-Gadhafi forces succeeded over the weekend in retaking two small towns. But the major western rebel-held cities of Zawiya and Misrata, near Tripoli, have repelled repeated, major attacks—including new forays against Zawiya on Wednesday.

In a speech to chanting and clapping supporters in Tripoli, Gadhafi vowed to fight on "until the last man and woman. We will defend Libya from the north to the south."

He lashed out against Europe and the United States for their pressure on him to step down, warning that "thousands of Libyans will die" if U.S. and NATO forces intervene in the conflict.

"We will distribute arms to 2 or 3 millions and we will turn Libya into another Vietnam," he said.

In Benghazi, Libya's second-largest city and the stronghold of the rebellion in the east, a self-declared "interim government council" formed by the opposition called on foreign nations to carry out airstrikes on non-Libyan African mercenaries that Gadhafi has used in his militias to put down the uprising.

Council spokesman Abdel-Hafiz Hoga said the council urged airstrikes on the "strongholds of the mercenaries .... used against civilians and people."

The council was announced Wednesday by opposition leaders, headed by Gadhafi's former Justice Minister Mustafa Abdel-Jalil, who joined the uprising.

The United States is moving naval and air forces closer to Libyan shores and has called for Gadhafi to give up power immediately.

But the Pentagon tried to rein in talk about military options in Libya, including a "no-fly zone" that Defense Secretary Robert Gates said would first require attacking Gadhafi's government.

"Let's just call a spade a spade: A no-fly zone begins with an attack on Libya to destroy the air defenses," Gates told lawmakers. He added that the operation would require more warplanes than are on a single U.S. aircraft carrier.

Pro-Gadhafi militiamen launched a wave of raids in Tripoli to snatch people who participated in anti-government protests in the past week after identifying them in photos and video, several witnesses said.

Dozens were arrested from their homes in dawn raids in the restive neighborhood of Tajoura, said one resident, whose two brothers were among those taken.

"Seventeen cars with armed militia in uniform, they stormed the houses of my brothers. They blew the locks off the doors, they took the jewelry of my sister-in-law, money and my brothers," the resident said, speaking on condition of anonymity for fear of retaliation. "My sister-in-law is pregnant in her sixth month, now she is at the hospital after bleeding."

The attack on Brega was the first major action by Gadhafi forces against the long swath of eastern Libya that is in opposition hands, extending from the oil port all the way to the Egyptian border, nearly half the country's 1,000-mile (1,600-kilometer) Mediterranean coast.

Opposition members said they believe the regime pulled up reinforcements from Sebha—a key Gadhafi stronghold deep in the country's southwestern deserts—flying them to Sirte, his main remaining bastion in central Libya, to carry out the attack.

In Celebration of Her New Life

†Francesca Santos Deleon Guerrero

Lovingly known as "Frances"

Born: August 13, 1956 · Died: February 22, 2011

In her new life, she now joins her:

Father: †Antonio Naputi Santos (Chungi)
Mother: †Rosario Sablan Santos (Zing)
Brother: †Ricardo Sablan Santos
Sister: †Rosalina Santos Camacho
Parents In-Law: Gullermo Cabrera Deleon Guerrero
Juana Aguero Deleon Guerrero

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:

Husband: Lorenzo (Larry) Aguero Deleon Guerrero
Children and Families: William Anthony S. and Sabina J. Deleon Guerrero (Trenton, Landen, Kane Joseph, Jeremiah Peter and William Anthony Jr.)
Patrick John S. Deleon Guerrero and Loria Faye Aldan (A'isha Johnaye, Lorenzo John "LJ")
Lawrence Lee S. Deleon Guerrero and Paulette Tudela (Dylon Seth, Nicky Laurette)
Roselle S. Deleon Guerrero

Brothers/Sisters and In-Laws: †Ricardo S./Dolores A. Santos, Henry S./Soledad Santos, Antonio S./Lydia S. Santos, Herman S./Belen Santos, David S./Virginia S. Santos, Lillian S./Wilfredo Villagracias, Norman S./Rosalia A. Santos, Albert S./Zerah DLC. Santos, †Rosaline S./Francisco SN. Camacho, Marian S. Santos, Alicia S./Jesse Alerta

†Pasgual A. Deleon Guerrero, †Daniel /Rosario DLG. Villagomez, †Vicente A./Nita Deleon Guerrero, †Antonio T./Remedio DLG. Villagomez, Roman A./Rufina P. Deleon Guerrero, Jesus A./Victoria T. Deleon Guerrero, Angelina A. Deleon Guerrero, Ron/Mariana A. Hanson, John DLG./Ramona Pangelnan, Jose A./Bang'on Deleon Guererro, †Takeo/Lourdes DLG. Nakazato, Diego DLG./Bernadita Urumelog

Reared Brother: Jesus Malus
Reared Sister: Claudia P. Santos/Melvin Tudela

Her remains will be arriving from Honolulu, HI early Saturday morning March 05, 2011 and will lie in state at Nuestra Señora dela Paz Memorial Chapel.

Funeral Service will be held on Monday, March 07, 2011. Her remains will be escorted from Nuestra Señora dela Paz Memorial Chapel to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 7:30am. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30am.

Interment Services will be at Sanctuario Pax Memorial Gardens in Kagman, Saipan where she will be at a peaceful rest.

Please Join Us In Prayers,

Lorenzo "Larry" A. Deleon Guerrero
Children and Families

Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Homeless Michigan man seeks donor of diamond ring

PONTIAC, Mich. (AP)—A homeless man in southeast Michigan says a woman accidentally gave him a gold ring laced with diamonds when she handed him a handful of change. Michael Secaur tells The Oakland Press that he was panhandling at an intersection in Pontiac on Monday when a woman pulled up in a vehicle and handed him some money. He says the ring was among some coins, and that he thinks she "did an oops." Secaur says he would recognize the woman if he saw her again. He says he quickly dismissed a plan to pawn the ring. The owner of a shelter where Secaur often stays has locked it in a safety deposit box.

Snapping Arizona dog takes over family's fridge

YUMA, Ariz. (AP)—A runaway dog darted into an Arizona apartment and found a cool place to hide - the bottom of the refrigerator. A Yuma Fire Department spokesman says the family told firefighters the pooch rushed into their home when they opened the front door and kept snapping at them. When they went to the fridge to get some food to try to lure the dog outside, the animal jumped in the appliance and refused to come out. Firefighters found the small black terrier-type dog crouched on the bottom shelf, snapping at anyone who approached. They used protective gear to pick up the pooch and put it in a carrier. The dog had been reported missing by someone else at the apartment complex and was returned home safely.

WWII-era letter from Ala. gets delivered in Calif.

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP)—A World War II-era letter addressed to a woman at a Red Cross hospital in California has been delivered nearly 70 years after its postmark in Alabama, but the mystery of the message remains. The letter is addressed to Miss R.T. Fletcher, American Red Cross Station Hospital, Camp Roberts, Calif. That building was torn down years ago. Women who worked at the hospital were typically nurses or administrative clerks. Camp Roberts was closed in 1970, so the letter was delivered to the Camp Roberts Historical Museum. Curator Gary McMaster says he hasn't opened the letter for privacy reasons. The envelope is torn where the return address would be located, so it's not clear who sent it. But the tear reveals a handwritten letter inside.

Savannah OKs Girl Scout sales at founder's home

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP)—Savannah's city manager has granted an exemption for Girl Scouts to sell cookies outside the historic mansion of the woman who founded the organization nearly a century ago. A complaint had halted the longtime practice of selling cookies on the public sidewalk outside the home of Juliette Gordon Low near a busy Savannah intersection. Savannah has an ordinance banning peddling on public sidewalks. City Manager Rochelle Small-Toney used her power to make specific exemptions to city ordinance to allow the Scouts to continue their sales.

Calif. woman survives 35-mile ride on minivan hood

MANTECA, Calif. (AP)—The woman desperately gripped a windshield wiper blade, her body splayed across the hood of the minivan as it raced down a Northern California freeway in the middle of the night, reaching 100 mph, witnesses said.

With the temperature hovering in the low 30s, Christopher Michael Carroll drove 35 miles from Manteca to nearby Pleasanton on Saturday with his wife clinging to the hood, prompting 911 calls from at least two alarmed witnesses, police said.

Carroll, 36, was being held without bail Wednesday at the San Joaquin County Jail on charges of attempted murder, kidnapping and domestic assault, according to sheriff's department records.

Carroll got into the family's minivan around 12:30 a.m. Saturday after he and his wife had an argument at their Manteca home, said police spokesman Rex Osborn.

"She kind of goes with the van to try to stop him, gets up on the hood and is hanging on to the wiper blade," he said. "She obviously didn't think he would keep driving."

Carroll sped through Manteca, got on the freeway and didn't pull over until he reached Pleasanton, Osborn said.

One witness followed Carroll most of the way and told police his speed reached 100 mph.

Eventually, Carroll slowed down the vehicle and his wife "was able to roll off," Osborn said. The driver following the vehicle took the woman to a nearby hospital, where she was treated for hypothermia.

Carroll returned home, where police arrested him a short time later, Osborn said. He is scheduled to appear in court Thursday, and authorities said they wouldn't know whether he has an attorney until then.

The wild ride happened several days after Carroll was arrested for being under the influence of a controlled substance, Osborn said.

Police received a phone call Feb. 23 from a witness who reported that Carroll had climbed into a 6-foot-deep trash bin in Manteca and was threatening to drown himself in the 5 inches of water that had collected at the bottom, Osborn said.

"We went out there and talked to him for about an hour and he was obviously on some kind of drugs," Osborn said. Carroll was booked into county jail that afternoon and released the following day, he said.

1ST YEAR DEATH ANNIVERSARY

We, the family of the late

AVCM Master Chief Malcolm C. Weidner

Respectfully request you join us in prayers as we celebrate our Beloved's First year of passing unto eternal life.

Daily masses of intention are being celebrated at Kristo Rai Church beginning on Saturday, February 26, 2011, at 6:00 a.m. On the final day, Saturday, March 05, 2011, an appreciation breakfast will be served immediately following the mass. And on Sunday, March 06, 2011, the Final Mass will be celebrated at 6:00 a.m.

Un Dangkulu na Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Rita Torres Weidner, Children & Families

In Loving Memory

Beatrice Borja Peredo Troup

June 23, 1959 - March 06, 2010

If tears could build a stairway and
memories a lane, we would walk up to heaven
and bring you home again!
No farewell words were spoken.
No time to say goodbye.
You were gone before we knew it and only God knows why.
Our hearts still ache with sadness and tears still flow.
What it meant to love you, no one will ever know.
But now we know you want us to mourn for you no more.
To remember all the happy times, life still has much in store.
Since you will never be forgotten, we pledge to you today,
A hallowed place within our hearts is where you'll always stay.

Love always,
Your Loving Family

*"You have never lost the one that you love,
as you love the one that you lost."*

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering
Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff, vs. **ESTATE OF LUIS H. MANGLONA through its Administratrix Marcie M. Tomokane,** Defendant.	**Civil Action No. 09-0026-CV** **NOTICE OF SALE**
IN THE MATTER OF: THE ESTATE OF LUIS H. MANGLONA, Deceased.	**Civil Action No. 07-0375-D** **NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a Judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 3rd day of February, 2011, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, a copy of which has been delivered to its Administratrix and heir directing the sale of the premises hereinafter described, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendant, as prescribed in the judgment, the undersigned counsel will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the 7th day of April, 2011 at 10 a.m., at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said Judgment, to wit:

Tract No. 22128, located in Ginalangan, Rota, containing an area of 25,000 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Survey Plat No. 2066/79 dated December 20, 1984.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c) To reject any and all bids.

2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, PO Box 503758 CK, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749.

3. Deposit and Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to the Bank of Guam.

4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and the Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 28th day of February, 2011.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Science & Technology

Apple's iPad 2 to ship March 11 starting at $499

By JEFFERSON GRAHAM
USA TODAY

SAN FRANCISCO—Apple CEO Steve Jobs took the stage to launch the next generation of iPads, delivering a widely expected faster performance chip and front- and rear-facing camera for photos and video chats. The new iPads, which sport a thinner and lighter design, will be available in stores March 11.

Jobs, on an indefinite medical leave and unexpected to attend, drew a round of applause with his surprise walk-on Wednesday morning at the Apple event here to introduce the iPad 2.

"We've been working on this product for a while and I just didn't want to miss this day," Jobs said.

Looking about the same as he did at recent events—thinner, but in jeans and black mock turtleneck, Jobs did more than a walk on. He stayed on stage for 32 minutes nonstop, before handing over the reins to various Apple executives to show off new Apple software. He returned several times and closed the event with a sum-up at the end, saying, "I'm blown away by this stuff."

Apple's iPad thus far has been nothing short of a category revolution in computing. The minds at Apple have inspired a slew of me-too tablet copycats from the likes of Motorola, Toshiba and Hewlett-Packard, whose tablets so far come at steeper prices. Apple's pricing remains the same, starting at $499.

"The competing products we've seen announced so far from Motorola, RIM, HP and others, while impressive, have fatally flawed price and distribution strategies," says Forrester Research analyst Sarah Rotman Epps.

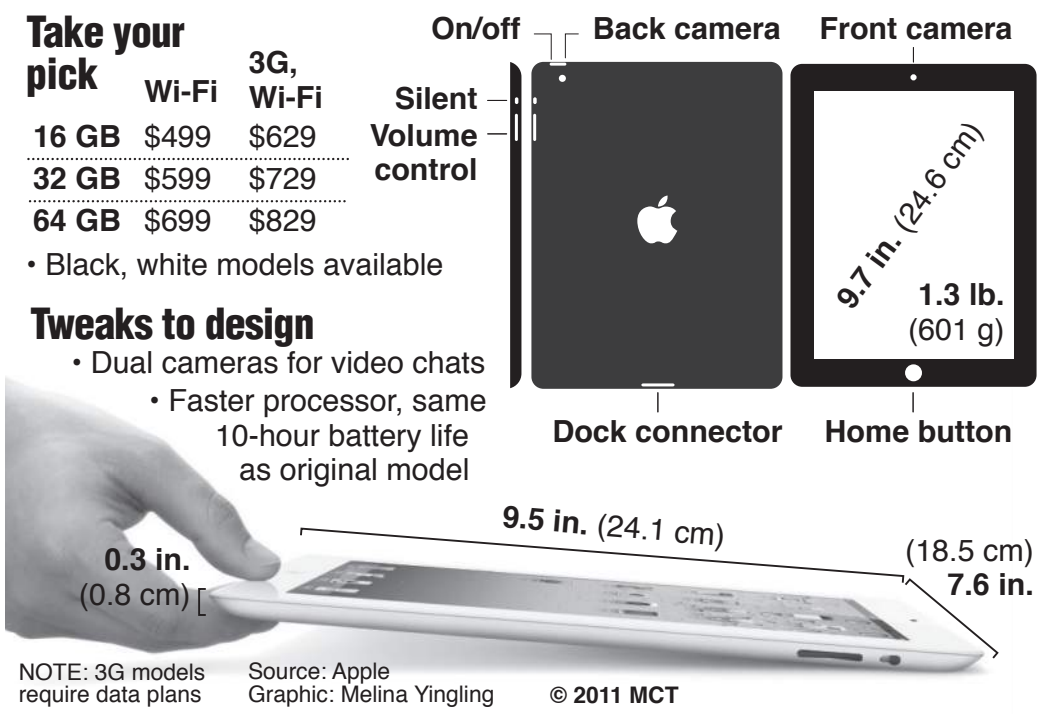
"For now, Apple still defines the tablet market, with a product consumers will desire at a price that's hard to beat."

The new iPad uses a new A5 chip that Jobs says is twice as fast, along with a promised nine times faster graphics performance. It comes in two colors, white and black, and is 33 percent thinner and lighter, at 1.3 pounds instead of 1.5. Apple will offer a HDMI connector, allowing iPads to plug into flat screen TVs. Unlike most devices, which offer slots, Apple will offer a $39 accessory that fits into the iPad 30-pin opening, and connects to a TV.

The electronics icon also offered a new kind of protective case, a "smart cover" for the iPad, based on magnets, which slips over the iPad and puts the unit to sleep when not in use. The case can be used to prop the iPad up as well when on an airplane, for instance. The cases come in 10 colors, including pink, red and brown, selling for $39 and $69.

Second time around

Apple's iPad 2 is 33 percent thinner and up to 15 percent lighter than the original model.



A virus-slayer for your thumb drive

By NOAH MATTHEWS
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

If you carry around a thumb drive, you're just as vulnerable for catching a computer virus as you are on your home computer. Enter ClamWin, a free program for all versions of Windows (going back to 98), that will scan your thumb drive as well as your hard drive.

ClamWin is an open-source program, in the same category as Mozilla's Thunderbird e-mail program and Firefox Internet browser. That means dedicated programmers like your reclusive neighbor who lives in his garage submit tweaks that make the program even better, unlike, say, the excellent Norton Antivirus, which is produced by in-house programmers and relies on updates.

ClamWin can be downloaded from www.clamwin.com. Unlike other antivirus programs, it installs on your thumb drive. After it's installed, ClamWin downloads the latest program update, along with current virus-slayers. Computer users who spot a new virus can alert the folks who produce the program. Volunteers around the world update ClamWin with the virus-killer after they figure out a way to kill it.

How important is an antivirus program? If a virus is capable of bringing the Iranian nuclear program to its knees, imagine how easy it would be to totally mess up your computer.

The advantages of carrying around an antivirus program on your thumb drive are fairly obvious. For example, if you are using a public computer you can easily get a virus just from downloading a file from the Internet, or even from the public computer itself. As you work on files on your thumb drive, you can scan your thumb drive, PC's hard drive or individual files — handy for just scanning the file you may have just downloaded.

Unlike other antivirus programs, such as Norton, you have to manually run a virus check. Norton does the job automatically and updates its virus definitions while you're working in other programs.

BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSING
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Bldg. # 1242 Pohnpei Ct.
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670)664-4809
E-Mail: bpl@pticom.com

Pursuant to P. L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy Inos, through the Board of Professional Licensing (BPL) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly meeting on **Tuesday, March 8, 2011 at 9:00a.m.** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Board's office at Bldg. #1242, Pohnpei Ct., Capitol Hill, Saipan. Agenda for the meeting is as follows:

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (8/4/10)
V. Chairman's Report
VI. Director's Report
VII. Investigator's Report
VIII. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
   A. Governor's Office
   B. Legislature
IX. Old Business:
   A. DEQ
   B. Status of H.B. 17-16
X. New Business:
   A. Member's Expired Terms
   B. Proposed Amendments to the REA Regulations
XI. Applications for Board's Review
   A. New/Renewal Applications
   B. Pending Applications
XII. Miscellaneous Business:

XIV. Executive Session – The Board may vote to meet in Executive Session

   A. JCT
XV. Announcements
XVI. Adjournment of Meeting

/s/ Francisco Q. Guerrero
Chairman

Office Of Vocational Rehabilitation
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
P.O. BOX 501521
Navy Hill - Bildg. N2
Saipan, MP 96950
"Together We Can Build A Future"
Tel.: (670) 322-6538 Fax: (670) 322-6536 TTY: (670) 322-6449 E-Mail: nmidir@orgov.net, website: ovrgov.net

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) has an opening for the following position:

Announcement#:	**10-111**
Position Title:	**"Manager, Administration & Operations"**
Per Annum Salary:	**$46,778.00**
Pay Level:	**Ungraded**
Opening Date:	**11/16/10**
Closing Date:	**Continuous until filled**

INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS MAY OBTAIN A DETAILED JOB DESCRIPTION WITH QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION FORM AT THE OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT, JM BUILDING IN GARAPAN. ALSO VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT OVRGOV.NET.

Life & Style

Report: Serena Williams has pulmonary embolism

NEW YORK (AP)—Tennis star Serena Williams underwent "emergency treatment" Monday, days after doctors discovered a blood clot in her lungs, People magazine reported.

Spokeswoman Nicole Chabot told the magazine that Williams "underwent emergency treatment for a hematoma suffered as a result of treatment for a more critical situation."

Williams suffered from a pulmonary embolism last week, Chabot said. The 29-year-old Williams is being treated at a Los Angeles hospital.

"Doctors are continuing to monitor her situation closely to avoid additional complications," Chabot told the magazine.

The winner of 13 Grand Slam titles, Williams attended Sunday night's Elton John AIDS Foundation Academy Awards Viewing Party.

On Tuesday night, Williams posted on her Twitter account "Tough day." A few minutes later she retweeted Kim Kardashian.

The younger sister of seven-time major champion Venus Williams hasn't played an official match since winning Wimbledon for the fourth time July 3. She cut her right foot on broken glass at a restaurant shortly after the victory, and her comeback has been repeatedly delayed by complications with the injury since.

Williams had surgery after initially hurting her foot and pulled out of the U.S. Open. She resumed practicing in September, but kept pushing back her return and needed an additional operation in October.

Williams

Williams missed the Australian Open in January, where she was the two-time defending champion.

Chabot told the magazine the embolism was discovered after Williams returned to Los Angeles from New York "for doctor appointments for the ongoing issues with her foot."

Second-ranked Kim Clijsters tweeted Wednesday: "Just read about Serena!!!! Very scary, hope she is ok!fingers crossed!"

Williams has a wide range of business, fashion and charitable interests that keep her in the public eye even when she's not on the court. Since winning her first Grand Slam title in 1999, she has struggled with injuries on several occasions only to come back to win championships.

Winning? Sheen gains Twitter followers, loses kids

LOS ANGELES (AP)—When Charlie Sheen threatened and maligned his bosses over "Two and a Half Men," it was business and, to some people at least, bizarrely comic. When his estranged wife alleged that she and their twin toddlers were in peril from the TV star, the saga turned ugly.

Sheen's 23-month-old sons were removed from his home Tuesday night after Brooke Mueller Sheen claimed that he threatened her with decapitation, adding a nasty custody battle to the actor's bitter war with the studio and producers who shut down his hit CBS show.

Her claims followed days of sometimes manic, sometimes violence-tinged media interviews by Sheen, part of a public campaign to disprove that he is a drug-using, reckless playboy who was unable or unfit to work on this season's final episodes of TV's No. 1 comedy.

Sheen's grandstanding has fascinated the public, with his Twitter account drawing more than 1 million followers a day after it was created. But Mueller Sheen said in a claim seeking a restraining order filed Tuesday that his "bizarre, disturbing and violent" comments made her fear for the safety of their children because Sheen "does not appear mentally stable."

According to Mueller Sheen's filing, Charlie Sheen has rarely seen the boys in the past year, but took them on Saturday and refused to return them.

According to a sworn declaration filed in the case, she said her husband told her in a phone call Sunday night, "I will cut your head off, put it in a box and send it to your mom!" She also claimed earlier threats and physical abuse.

A court order issued Tuesday and obtained by The Associated Press requires Sheen to stay 100 yards away from Mueller Sheen and their twin sons. Sheen has two other children with former wife Denise Richards.

The twins, Max and Bob, were taken from Sheen's Hollywood Hills home that night and returned to their mother's care. The boys turn 2 on March 14.

A Los Angeles Police Department statement that its officers had removed the boys was incorrect, police Officer Bruce Borihanh said Wednesday. The department was not involved and he didn't know which agency might have been responsible, he said.

Mueller Sheen's attorneys did not immediately respond Wednesday to a query about the event.

Text messages sent to Sheen Wednesday morning for comment were not immediately returned. A phone message left for Sheen's divorce attorney, Mark Gross, was not immediately returned. A hearing on the order is scheduled for March 22.

ANOTHER MILESTONE AP

In this publicity image released by NBC, Jimmy Fallon, host of "Late Night with Jimmy Fallon," left, stands with Jerry Cohen, Ben Greenfield, right, founders of Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream as they unveil Jimmy Fallon's ice cream flavor "Late Night Snack," during a taping of the show on Wednesday, March 2, 2011 in New York. The scoop about Ben & Jerry's Late Night Snack was timed to the milestone Fallon marked on Wednesday, two years after he took over for Conan O'Brien as host of the NBC talk show (which airs weeknights at 12:35 a.m. EST).

Paris prosecutors say Galliano to stand trial

PARIS (AP)—Paris prosecutors on Wednesday ordered John Galliano to stand trial over alleged racial insults—a development welcomed by the famous fashion designer's attorney, who said his client has been the victim of a "veritable lynching" in the court of public opinion.

The trial could take place between April and June, and Galliano could face up to six months in prison and euro22,500 ($31,000) in fines if convicted, the prosecutors office said in a statement.

Capping a five-day whirlwind of scandal around the designer, the prosecutors said he will face allegations of "public insults based on the origin, religious affiliation, race or ethnicity" against three people.

The news came shortly after the talented 50-year-old designer apologized for his behavior after top-tier house Christian Dior sacked him as creative director over anti-Semitic remarks.

Video of an inebriated Galliano praising Hitler and the subsequent firing of one of the industry's most talented and moneymaking designers have sent shock waves through Paris Fashion Week, which began Tuesday.

Galliano's French lawyer, Stephane Zerbib, said the trial would be an opportunity to get to the bottom of the case "under much calmer conditions."

"Over the past four days, Mr. Galliano has been the object of a veritable lynching," Zerbib said on a panel on Canal Plus television.

Galliano broke his silence on the issue Wednesday.

"Anti-Semitism and racism have no part in our society. I unreservedly apologize for my behavior in causing any offense," he said in a statement via his British lawyers.

Galliano also said he was "seeking help" for his personal failures, without elaborating. At fashion week, a spokesperson for the John Galliano clothing line declined to comment when asked if the designer was in rehab.

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Rango
Friday 4:00 7:00 9:30
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:30
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:00
Johnny Depp, Isla Fisher
Children's/Family • Rated G
Synopsis
Helmer Gore Verbinksi (Pirates of the Caribbean) directs this family-oriented animated adventure starring the voice of Johnny Depp as a family pet who leaves the comfort of home in order to explore the outside world. John Logan (The Aviator) provides the script for the Paramount Pictures production. Abigail Breslin, Isla Fisher, Alfred Molina, Ray Winstone, Harry Dean Stanton, and Ned Beatty provide the voices for the rest of the cast.

Take Me Home Tonight
Friday 4:05 7:05 9:45
Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:45
Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05
Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:05
Ana Faris, Topher Grace
Comedy Drama • Rated R
Synopsis
Topher Grace and Anna Faris star in It's All Gone Pete Tong screenwriter/director Michael Dowse's coming of age comedy drama concerning a rowdy group of recent college graduates who venture out for one last night of fun before accepting the responsibilities of adulthood.

The Adjustment Bureau
Friday 4:10 7:10 9:50
Saturday 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:50
Sunday 1:10 4:10 7:10
Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:10
Matt Damon, Emily Blunt
Science Fiction • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
Matt Damon and Emily Blunt headline this romantic sci-fi drama based on a short story by Philip K. Dick, and detailing the troubled love affair between a rising congressman and a gorgeous ballerina. The closer these two lovers get, the harder shadowy forces work to drive them apart by altering the very fabric of time and space.

Hall Pass
Friday 4:15 7:15 10:00
Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 10:00
Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:15
Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:15
Owen Wilson, Jason Sudeikis
Comedy • Rated R

I Am Number Four
Friday 4:25 7:25 9:35
Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:35
Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:25
Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:25
Alex Pettyfer, Timothy Olyphant
Science Fiction • Rated PG 13

Big Momma's Like Father Like Son
Friday 4:20 7:20 9:40
Saturday 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:40
Sunday 1:20 4:20 7:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:20
Martin Lawrence, Brandon T. Jackson
Comedy • Rated PG 13

Unknown
Friday 4:30 7:30 9:55
Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:55
Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:30
Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:30
Liam Neeson, Diane Kruger
Thriller • Rated PG 13

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Beyonce says she donated Gadhafi performance fees

NEW YORK (AP)—Beyonce says she donated money she received for performing for the Gadhafi clan to Haiti relief efforts more than a year ago.

The superstar made the revelation in a statement Wednesday to The Associated Press. Her announcement comes days after singer Nelly Furtado tweeted that she had gotten $1 million from the Gadhafi clan to perform in Italy in 2007. Furtado says she's donating that money to charity.

Beyonce's publicist says she performed at a private party on the island of St. Barts on New Year's Eve in 2009. Once it was revealed that the performance was linked to the Gadhafi family, she gave the money and commissions to earthquake relief in Haiti.

Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi is being investigated for possible war crimes.

AP

Rapper and a New Jersey Nets' minority owner Jay-Z, left, and Beyonce Knowles sit courtside during an NBA basketball game between the Nets and the Phoenix Suns, Monday, Feb. 28, 2011, in Newark, N.J. The Suns won 104-103 in overtime.

Zsa Zsa Gabor taken to hospital by ambulance

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Zsa Zsa Gabor was rushed to a hospital Wednesday in an ambulance when blood flow stopped to her leg, a publicist said.

Doctors ordered the ailing 94-year-old actress to go to UCLA Medical Center because of the problem with her left leg, publicist John Blanchette said.

Gabor

Most of Gabor's right leg was amputated in January because of gangrene.

Gabor broke her hip and had replacement surgery in July. She has been hospitalized several times since then for swelling, clots and infections.

She celebrated her birthday at home on Feb. 6 and watched the Oscars Sunday with her husband.

The actress is partially paralyzed from a 2002 car accident and now uses a wheelchair.

Gabor, a native of Hungary, appeared in films ranging from "Moulin Rouge" in 1952 to "Queen of Outer Space" in 1958. She also appeared on TV specials and game shows, and as a guest on several television series, often playing herself.

5 members of Cuba's national ballet stay in Canada

HAVANA (AP)—Five members of the National Ballet of Cuba, including one of its principal dancers, have remained in Canada after performing there, dance officials said Wednesday.

National Ballet of Canada spokeswoman Catherine Chang says the five are taking classes with the Canadian ballet in Toronto, adding that she can't confirm that they have defected.

But an official with the National Ballet of Cuba said the dancers had decided to stay in Canada. The official was not authorized to talk to the press on the issue and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The company, which is directed by legendary prima ballerina assoluta Alicia Alonso, had performed Giselle.

The Montreal Gazette reported that among the Cubans was a principal dancer, Elier Bourzac, who said he was staying in Canada for "artistic" reasons. The newspaper said the Cubans hoped to join Canadian dance companies.

Many dancers who have left Cuba are climbing to stardom in American companies from American Ballet Theatre in New York to the Boston and the San Francisco Ballets.

Words are worth the fight for author Vargas Llosa

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Words may not come easily for Mario Vargas Llosa, but the Nobel laureate says the work of creating them is something he endures to find joy.

The Peruvian writer, who won the 2010 Nobel Prize for literature, says a successful society minimizes the unhappiness of its people, and encourages them to resist failure.

Llosa

Speaking Wednesday at Mexico City's Autonomous University, Vargas Llosa called on students to seek out their true calling, and to embrace it with the passion needed to succeed.

"I work, and I work hard precisely because I have an enormous difficulty in writing," he said. "Many times I sweat, I sweat ink, but with joy—suffering joy. And I wouldn't trade with anyone, for anything, this task."

The author of works such as "Conversation in the Cathedral" and "The Green House" said universities should help young people to discover their true vocations rather than chase wealth or power.

"The true success of a society is having reduced to the maximum human unhappiness, or having better prepared its people to resist misfortune, failure—that which we call unhappiness," he said.

As a young man, Vargas Llosa said he set out to study law, but then rejected a future as a lawyer in order to write.

During his time at Peru's Nacional University of San Marcos, during the dictatorship of Manuel Apolinar Odria, he saw that literature that attempted to deliver political messages was "condemned to fail because it introduces an element of propaganda that impedes the magic of fiction and provokes a rejection by the reader, who feels manipulated."

It was as a student, he said, that he came to identify with democracy and liberty, and to reject "any form of tyranny, of subjugation, of repression of the independent spirit."

Vargas Llosa is to appear at Mexico's Palace of Fine Arts on Sunday to present his theatrical adaptation of "A Thousand and One Nights." On Friday, he is to receive the Order of the Aztec Eagle, the highest honor Mexico bestows on foreigners.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Fox suspends Gingrich, Santorum

NEW YORK (AP)—Fox News Channel says it has suspended contributors Newt Gingrich and Rick Santorum for two months as the men explore a possible White House run. The network, in an on-air announcement by Bret Baier on Wednesday, said the contracts for the two men will be suspended until May 1. Their contracts will be terminated unless they notify the network by then that they are not running for president. Both Gingrich, the former House speaker, and former Pennsylvania senator Santorum have not declared candidacies. But they have signaled that they are seriously considering a run for the GOP presidential nomination in 2012. The news network has other potential candidates on its payroll, including Sarah Palin and Mike Huckabee, but their status was not addressed on Wednesday.

Actor Mickey Rooney tells US Congress about abuse

WASHINGTON (AP)—Actor Mickey Rooney is telling the U.S. Congress that he has been a victim of elder abuse by a family member who took his money and misused it. Rooney testified Wednesday before a special Senate committee considering legislation to curb abuses of senior citizens. The 90-year-old film and television star told the lawmakers that elder abuse comes in various forms, including physical and emotional. In his case, he described the abuse as financial. Last week, a Los Angeles judge extended a restraining order against Rooney's stepson. Rooney has accused his stepson of preventing him from leaving his home and verbally threatening him. Democratic Sen. Herb Kohl says the elderly are vulnerable because they are "often fragile" and their abusers usually stand little chance of getting caught.

Charo: Calif. neighbors don't like my bull's smell

NEW YORK (AP)—Charo says she has a beef with her neighbors. The Spanish-American guitarist and entertainer says she had to give up her pet bull after a neighbor in Beverly Hills, Calif., complained about the smell of its feces. Charo says she adopted the bull calf after they filmed an anti-bullfighting video together for the animal rights group PETA in 2009. She says now the bull has grown "Beverly Hills people complain" about the aroma. A Beverly Hills spokeswoman confirms officials advised a resident livestock isn't allowed in the city. Charo says the bull is named Manolo. She says it lives at a Malibu horse farm but is still allowed to visit her. The entertainer appears in the SiTV series "Latino 101." She just released the single "Sexy Sexy."

Singer Aretha Franklin says she's lost 85 pounds

DETROIT (AP)—Aretha Franklin says she's lost 85 pounds (40 kilograms) as part of an ongoing effort to drop weight. The legendary singer said in a taped interview that aired Wednesday on "The Wendy Williams Show" that she's been trying to shed pounds ever since looking at pictures of herself and deciding she was "entirely too fat." Williams interviewed Franklin on Friday at a Detroit-area hotel. The 68-year-old Franklin underwent surgery for an undisclosed ailment in December and didn't go into detail about it during the interview with Williams. The "Queen of Soul" did say a recurring pain in her side last year was her "first inkling that something was not what it should be." The second part of the interview is to air on Thursday.

Charity fundraisers may be walking away with donations

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: For several years, a group of ladies at work have held fundraisers so they could participate in cancer charity walks. We have all donated willingly, but someone recently pointed out something disturbing.

Every year, this group travels to a different location for the walk, using the funds they have raised for the charity. There is a walk within driving distance. The funds they raise could be donated to the cause instead of spent on flights, hotels, meals, etc. One of them commented that they "might as well get something out of it."

Are we wrong to feel this is not a good thing? Someone said we're paying for their vacation. At this point we are confused about the whole mess. Any comments?

BAFFLED IN NEW ENGLAND

DEAR BAFFLED: You're not wrong. Any monies raised the way these "ladies" have done should have been donated to cancer research. The comment your co-worker made to you was revealing. What you have described sounds like fraud. What those women should have "gotten out of it" was the satisfaction of knowing they were doing something for a worthy cause. This would not include treating themselves to a group vacation. If you continue to support this effort, the check(s) should be made payable to the charity.

DEAR ABBY: Are there any rules of etiquette involving unwanted guests at funerals? While I have many loved ones and friends, I have also made a few enemies in my life. I have made clear to my husband that I do not want "certain people" to be allowed to attend my funeral when I die.

I have always found it distasteful when folks show up at funerals for someone they disliked or didn't know well. It ruins it for those who really did love the deceased. I do not want my enemies trying to make themselves feel better by showing up and pretending they cared.

My husband is against the idea. I made him promise that he'd do this for me because, even though I'll be dead and may not care then, I do care very much now.

P.S. My husband wants to know how one would keep people away from a funeral in the first place.

PLANNIN' AHEAD IN SODDY-DAISY, TENN.

DEAR PLANNIN': Let's hold a good thought that you'll be around for a long, long time and outlive your enemies. However, if that doesn't happen, a way to ensure that only those you want to attend your funeral will be there is to make it "invitation only." And when your death is announced in the newspaper, it should be stated that the service will be private.

DEAR ABBY: I have been seeing the same gynecologist for eight years. I trust her with my health and my privacy. She recently moved to a new practice and I would like to follow her. My problem is the wife of one of my co-workers is an employee in the new office, and I'm worried that patient confidentiality may not extend to "pillow talk." How do I handle this delicate situation?

VALUES MY PRIVACY IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR VALUES: Handle it by having a frank talk with your gynecologist, explaining that one of your co-workers is married to an employee in the new office, and asking her how she plans to guarantee your privacy. Explain that you would like to remain her patient, but that this has raised a red flag for you.

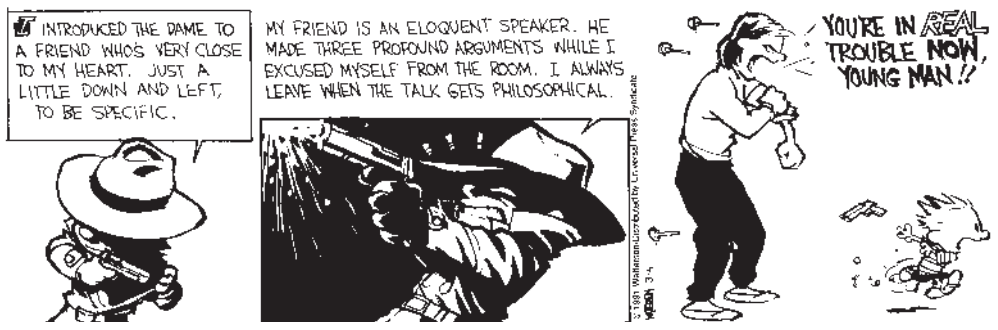
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

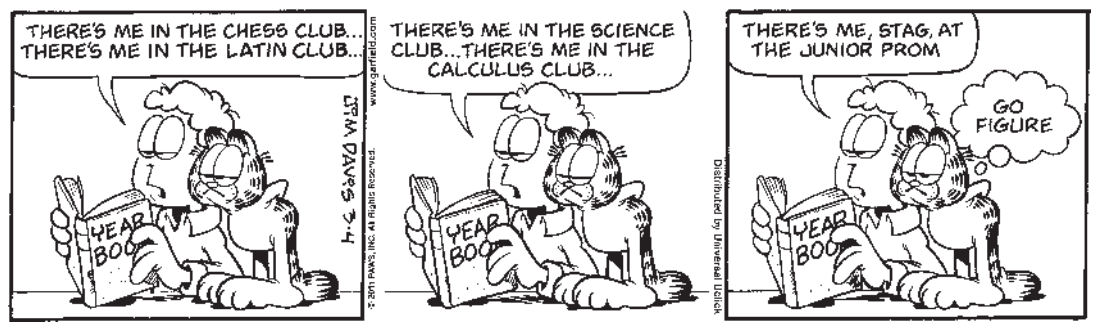
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I INTRODUCED THE DAME TO A FRIEND WHO'S VERY CLOSE TO MY HEART. JUST A LITTLE DOWN AND LEFT, TO BE SPECIFIC.
MY FRIEND IS AN ELOQUENT SPEAKER. HE MADE THREE PROFOUND ARGUMENTS WHILE I EXCUSED MYSELF FROM THE ROOM. I ALWAYS LEAVE WHEN THE TALK GETS PHILOSOPHICAL.
YOU'RE IN REAL TROUBLE NOW, YOUNG MAN!!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis


THERE'S ME IN THE CHESS CLUB... THERE'S ME IN THE LATIN CLUB...
THERE'S ME IN THE SCIENCE CLUB...THERE'S ME IN THE CALCULUS CLUB...
THERE'S ME, STAG, AT THE JUNIOR PROM
GO FIGURE
YEAR BOOK

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Chicken-king link
4 Jet forth
8 Welsh veggie
12 Sinbad's bird
13 Largest of the seven
14 Opposi-tionist
15 Cabbage variety
17 Pinto —
18 45-Down's activity
19 Sigma preceder
21 Doctor's due
22 Munchie for Bugs
26 Sire
29 Coffee vessel
30 Gorilla
31 Story teller
32 Butter serving
33 Open somewhat
34 Raw rock
35 Electronic trans-mission
36 Song of praise
37 Loud stalk
39 Once around
40 By way of
41 Nonsense
45 Cousin of 15-Across
48 Veggie
50 Singer Campbell
51 Easy run
52 Bronze
53 Borscht need
54 List shortener (Abbr.)
55 Tackle's teammate

DOWN
1 Clumsy boats
2 Aerobatic maneuver
3 In need of liniment
4 January birthstone
5 Grammar-ian's concern
6 Bro or sis
7 Barber-shop offering
8 Toil
9 Away from WSW
10 Greek H
11 Family
16 One who can't be paroled
20 Crone
23 Royal of India
24 Milky gem
25 Four years in the White House
26 United nations
27 Green land
28 Author Greene
29 "Get Smart" hero
32 Due
33 Jellied entree
35 Calendar abbr.
36 FedEx delivery
38 Occur-rence
39 Rx for Parkin-son's
42 Novem-ber responsi-bility
43 Panache
44 Soprano Jenny
45 Cold War org.
46 Hearty quaff
47 Shelter
49 Decay

Solution time: 25 mins.

T	B	S	P	■	S	C	A	M	■	P	O	W
A	L	E	S	■	I	U	N	A	■	A	P	E
P	A	H	A	M	E	D	I	C	■	R	E	D
S	H	A	L	O	M	■	■	H	E	A	D	S
■	■	■	M	O	■	P	H	O	N	G	■	■
P	O	P	S	■	G	E	O	■	D	U	E	L
A	V	A	■	■	E	E	L	■	■	A	R	E
W	A	R	T	■	A	V	E	■	M	Y	R	A
■	■	■	A	W	A	R	E	■	P	O	■	■
A	E	S	O	P	■	■	S	I	T	C	O	M
B	R	A	■	P	A	R	A	C	H	U	T	E
E	L	I	■	L	I	E	S	■	E	R	I	E
D	E	L	■	E	R	G	S	■	R	E	S	T

Yesterday's answer 3-4

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Margo Harshman, 25; Chaz Bono, 42; Patricia Heaton, 53; Mykelti Williamson, 54

Happy Birthday: Be prepared to take action instead of a wait and see approach. Follow your instincts and don't be afraid to take on a challenge. You'll be surprised by what you can accomplish this year if you stop questioning and start doing. Get rid of dead weight to make room for what's important to you and your future. Your numbers are 2, 9, 13, 22, 31, 34, 47

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): A quick once-over won't cut it today. Do your due diligence if you don't want to lose ground professionally, financially or physically. Don't let pressure put on you by others speed up a process that requires time. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Ask for favors, listen and learn and pick up new skills and you will be prepared for any unexpected professional changes that develop. Being versatile, coupled with what and whom you know will lead to your success. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Showing off will backfire. You are better off observing what others do and refraining from trying to be in control. Taking on a job that is not suited to you will lead to greater uncertainty. Ask for assistance. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Make your money work for you. Safe investments or putting what you can into a home and personal security will ease stress. Look for ways to lower your overhead while increasing your earning potential. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): There is more to consider with regard to your personal and professional partnerships. Map out what you have to offer and what you need in return. Establish the parameters so you can move forward fearlessly. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You'll be pushed and pulled emotionally, financially and mentally. Don't let anyone take advantage of you or pressure you. Trying to buy someone's attention will lead to loss. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Stick close to home and family. You can beautify your surroundings cheaply if you do the work. A relationship can take on a new life if you include this person in your plans and share what you have. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You can't please everyone but you can follow through with your ideas and plans, bringing you the success and happiness you deserve. Change is good and, although it is accompanied by struggle and stress, it will turn out better than you anticipate. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Stick close to home. Avoid anyone putting pressure on you or trying to manipulate what you do. Friends, relatives and neighbors will play a role in upsetting your plans. The less you reveal, the easier it will be to get things done. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Bring what you have learned in the past up to date. Move ahead on projects you want to pursue. There is money to be made in an unusual way. You don't have to go all out to be successful. Keep things simple and affordable. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Doors will open if you are willing to do the work first. It's what you present and how that will make a difference, but don't give away all your secrets. You may be enthusiastic but caution coupled with strategic tactics will lure the right people and support. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Shake off any bad feelings you have or you will miss your mark when it comes to what you want to achieve. Your emotions will get you into trouble if you refuse to see all sides of an issue. Work with, not against, the grain. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are giving, caring and you like to please. You are driven and outgoing and desire recognition.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

					6			
	4		5				7	
5		9				2		1
7							9	
			4	2	9			
	8							5
8		1				5		2
	6				7		8	
			3					

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 3/04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	4	5	1	6	7	2	9	3
7	3	6	9	2	4	5	8	1
9	1	2	8	5	3	7	6	4
6	8	3	5	4	9	1	2	7
5	2	1	3	7	8	6	4	9
4	7	9	2	1	6	8	3	5
2	6	4	7	3	5	9	1	8
3	5	8	6	9	1	4	7	2
1	9	7	4	8	2	3	5	6

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/03

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SHASTA, CA **Solution: 8 letters**

W	N	T	A	R	E	T	A	W	L	L	I	T	S	F
S	H	O	T	N	E	M	A	R	C	A	S	I	N	O
K	O	I	R	S	D	V	S	N	R	E	V	A	C	O
C	U	R	S	T	I	E	I	E	A	G	L	E	O	T
I	S	T	A	K	H	R	R	R	L	A	K	E	N	H
W	E	A	R	N	E	S	U	S	N	T	I	E	V	I
S	B	P	L	E	C	Y	T	O	O	I	R	R	E	L
E	O	R	L	I	C	H	T	A	T	N	W	U	N	L
K	A	E	L	S	A	R	E	O	T	S	F	T	T	I
E	T	D	A	P	C	R	E	R	W	E	I	N	I	B
N	K	D	M	O	U	N	T	A	I	N	S	E	O	E
N	Ⓒ	I	U	R	I	P	I	R	T	A	H	V	N	R
E	Ⓘ	N	Y	T	Y	R	O	T	S	I	H	D	O	T
D	Ⓣ	G	U	S	A	K	E	R	U	E	O	A	A	Y
Y	Ⓨ	L	L	A	B	P	R	I	S	T	I	N	E	M

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Adventure, Anderson, Bally, Casino, Caverns, City, Convention, County, Dam, Eagle, Eureka, Fish, Foothill, History, Houseboat, Kennedy, Keswick, Lake, Liberty, Mall, Mountains, North State, Patriot, Pristine, Rancheria, Recreation, Redding, Sacramento, Sports, Stillwater, Tourist, Trail, Trip, Turtles, Whiskey Town, Win River

Yesterday's Answer: Fugitive

SALE! The Legacy of Wonderword Kids! Spend hours on new fun! Let the puzzles fill your brain with wonderful words. Two all new titles, this book is on sale for $3.95 each! U.S. funds only. Canada: Add $4.95 postage for the first book order, $1 plus for each additional book. Send check/money order, to: 3C Nation St., Kansas City, MO, 64105. Or call toll-free, 1-800-642-5450.

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Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

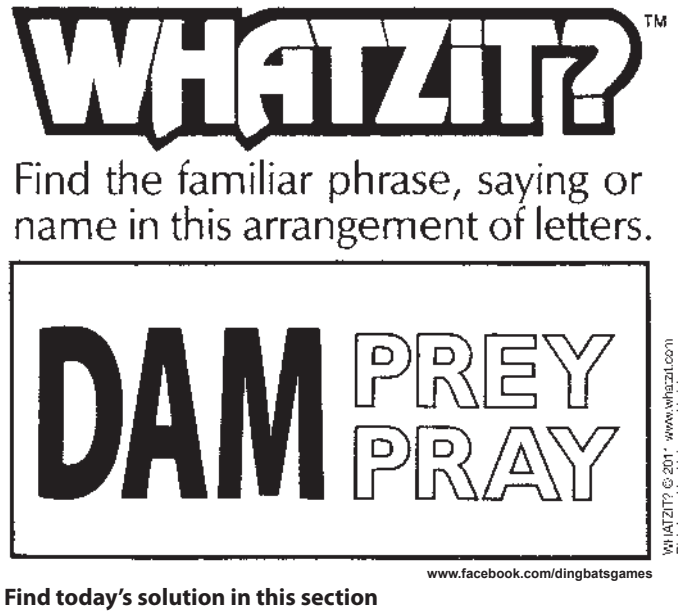
Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.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Find today's solution in this section

VACANCY

J.C. Tenorio Ent, Inc., is currently seeking for qualified candidates to fill the following position

CAKE DECORATOR

Please apply in person at the J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, Inc. Human Resources Office Joeten Center, Susupe

(NO PHONE CALLS, PLEASE)

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2008 Ford Mustang
- 2 Door Coupe
- V6 Automatic
- Low Mileage
- Asking Price $14,000.00

FOR MORE DETAILS PLEASE CALL 989-2869

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
HUMAN RESOURCES

Job Vacancy Announcement
Job Vacancy No. 11-022

Opening Date: Friday, 03/04/11 Closing Date: Friday, 03/18/11

WAREHOUSE ASSISTANT

DUTIES: Under the overall supervision of the Warehouse Manager or his/her designee, the incumbent's duties and responsibilities are as follows: Responsible for performing manual labor in the receiving, shipping, and distribution of materials. Prepares materials for issuing against a pick list; ensures correctness of materials. Prepares, packs and delivers requested materials to respective divisions. Verifies quantities and quality of materials received against shipping documents. Prepares receiving documents on returned, salvaged or scraped materials; stacks materials in designated areas. Maintains warehouse and surrounding areas ensuring orderliness of worksite. Conducts monthly inventory counts and spot checks. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level. SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING.

LOCATION: Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, SAIPAN

SALARY: $11,036.00 - $12,263.00 per annum

POSITIONS: Two.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: High School Diploma, or G.E.D. Knowledge of: Office machines; Basic mathematics; Safety procedures. Skill in: Operating office equipment; Operating warehouse equipment such as forklifts and pallet jacks; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. APPLICANTS MAY BE TESTED.

Applications may be picked up at the Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building or the Tinian and Rota Administration Office. Failure to provide required documents listed on the application will be grounds for disqualification.

CUC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
HUMAN RESOURCES

Job Vacancy Announcement
Job Vacancy No. 11-021

Opening Date: Friday, 03/04/11 Closing Date: Friday, 03/18/11

TRADES ASSISTANT
(WATER & METERING)

DUTIES: Under the overall supervision of the division manager or his/her designee, the incumbent's duties and responsibilities are as follows: Assists with installations, repairs and general maintenance in service area assigned. Performs preventative maintenance on equipment in service area assigned. Assists with various construction related duties in service area assigned. Prepares job site for work including gathering and setting up materials and supplies. Cleans up, gathers and puts away equipment, materials and supplies for activities/projects. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level. Assisting in operating water main valves; Assisting in routing wells; Taking reservoir level and water level readings; Checking on customer complaints by checking for disconnects or leakage; Bleeding fire hydrants; Assisting in checking for leaks in water lines; Assisting in repairing water lines; Assisting in monitoring chlorine gas in the water system; Assisting in maintaining and repairing motors, pumps and other related equipment; Gathering water samples; Assisting in installing and/or replacing water meters; Operating and maintaining water plant facilities; Checking and maintaining vehicles; Inventorying materials and supplies. SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING.

LOCATION: Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Tinian

POSITIONS: Two.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: High School Diploma, or G.E.D Knowledge of: Basic preventative maintenance principles; Basic mathematics. Skill in: Performing preventative maintenance; Performing basic maintenance; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must have a valid CNMI Driver's License. APPLICANTS MAY BE TESTED.

Applications may be picked up at the Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building or the Tinian and Rota Administration Office. Failure to provide required documents listed on the application will be grounds for disqualification.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
HUMAN RESOURCES

Job Vacancy Announcement
Job Vacancy No. 11-020

Opening Date: Friday, 03/04/11 Closing Date: Friday, 03/18/11

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT
(CASHIER & CUSTOMER SERVICE)

DUTIES: Under the overall supervision of the division manager or his/her designee, the incumbent's duties and responsibilities are as follows: Responsible for performing entry level, fiscal support and related customer service activities. Performs a wide variety of routine fiscal support activities to include: receiving and processing payments; issuing receipts; preparing daily deposit slips; opening new accounts; closing credit cards; verifying and processing payroll; running automatic credit card payments; posting invoices; preparing checks; preparing refunds; and, preparing charge vouchers. Generates and distributes routine reports. Maintains filing systems. Performs customer service activities to include assisting customers with applications, payments and in settling disputes. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level. SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING.

LOCATION: Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Tinian

SALARY: $11,036.00 - $12,263.00 per annum

POSITIONS: Two.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: High School Diploma, or G.E.D., plus zero to three years of related customer service or bookkeeping experience. Knowledge of: Basic bookkeeping principles; Office procedures, methods, and equipment; Keyboarding techniques; Basic mathematical concepts; Customer service principles; Cash handling and bank deposit procedures. Skill in: Providing customer service; Performing basic mathematical calculations; Maintaining records; Keyboarding; Using standard office equipment; Tabulating, recording, and balancing transactions; Preparing routine reports; Using a computer and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. APPLICANTS MAY BE TESTED.

Applications may be picked up at the Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building or the Tinian and Rota Administration Office. Failure to provide required documents listed on the application will be grounds for disqualification.

CUC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Night-time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Night-time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Computer Repair
Only $25 Minor Problem
WE ALSO FIX LAPTOP & USED PARTS
17" Monitor – FOR SALE
233-5641
Open: 7 Days a Week 9:00am - 9:00pm

BBC INTERNET / GAME DEBUT
NEW CUSTOMER 1st hour FREE!
Mon-Fri. 3-4PM & 7-8PM 50%OFF
(Discount rate until March 31st)
Rate $1/hr. and minimum cost $1
Location: New white house across from Joeten Dandan
Business hours: 12PM – 12AM Tel: 234-0222

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

2 Bedroom Apartment. Garapan $400-$500 a month. Utilities not included. Call: 285-2713

FOR SALE

Construction corporation with good records and a well known restaurant business for sale. For more information please call 483-1123.

FOR RENT - COMMERCIAL

2,300 sq.ft. Commercial space available. Tun Kiku's Building, Garapan. Call: 285-2713

WANTED FOR EMPLOYMENT

Power plant mechanic/diesel mechanic. E-mail bio-data or resume to corptriplel@gmail.com or fax to (670) 233-6828

WANTED TO BUY

Looking for used cars. Good condition. 2000 yr. & up. We pay cash! Pls. call 287-7676

FOR RENT

Well maintained ONE BR. fully furnished APT. NEAR MHS with AC in a quiet, secure area behind Calvo's Nursery, off Texas Rd. 24 hrs govt. and rain water. Washing machine & dryer. Ceiling fans in all rooms. Walk-in closet. $375, water included. Call Ed at 788-6268

WHATZIT Solution: Damn with faint praise

WANTED

1 BARTENDER

MUST BE WELL EXPERIENCED
Contact Business Office **ASAP** at 233-0666 (8am-5pm)
or, WILMA at 233-1666 (5pm-10pm)
VERDE, INC. dba Abyss Fisherman's Bar & Restaurant

FOR SALE

Anaks Ocean View Hill Saipan

Owner is selling two, 2BR 1Bth living & separate kitchen, resort style residential units. Drinkable tap water, in house emergency generator, spacious swimming pool, 24 hours guarded security. Currently the units are let, perfect for cash flow investment. $120,000 or better offer. For more details, send your inquiry to anaks@pticom.com

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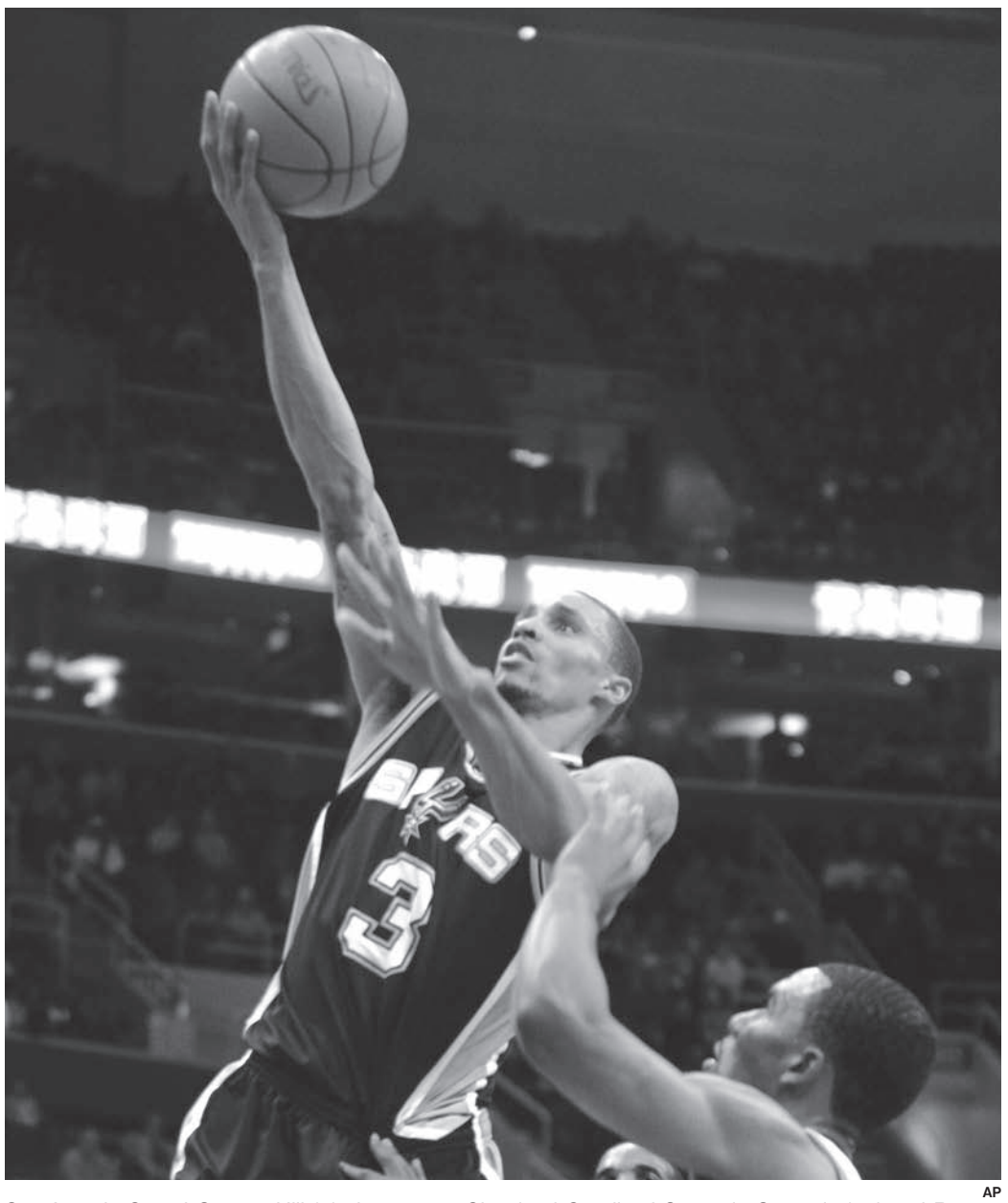
Hill leads Spurs past Cavs, 109-99



AP

San Antonio Spurs' George Hill (3) shoots over Cleveland Cavaliers' Samardo Samuels (24) and Ramon Sessions in the second quarter in an NBA basketball game Wednesday, March 2, 2011, in Cleveland.

CLEVELAND (AP)—George Hill equaled a season high with 22 points as the San Antonio Spurs beat the Cleveland Cavaliers 109-99 on Wednesday to become the first NBA team to reach 50 wins.

Tim Duncan scored 16 points and DeJuan Blair had 14 points and 10 rebounds for the Spurs, who bounced back from a 109-93 loss to Memphis on Tuesday. San Antonio, playing its second game since point guard Tony Parker with a calf injury, also got 14 points from Gary Neal and 13 each from All-Star Manu Ginobili and Matt Bonner.

Samardo Samuels, making his first NBA start, had a career-high 23 points for Cleveland.

Timberwolves 116, Pistons 105

At Auburn Hills, Michigan, Kevin Love had 20 points and 20 rebounds, and Anthony Randolph was among three reserves in double figures scoring for the Timberwolves.

Lazar Hayward scored a career-high 16 points and Anthony Tolliver added 13 for Minnesota, which has won three of its last five road games after a 2-23 start away from home.

Love's double-double was his 48th in a row, the longest streak since Moses Malone's 51 straight games in 1978-79. Love appeared to hurt his right thigh late but played on.

Austin Daye scored a career-high 22 points for the Pistons.

Hawks 83, Bulls 80

At Atlanta, Al Horford matched his career high with 31 points, including a jam with 29 seconds remaining to give Atlanta its first lead of the game.

Horford had 16 rebounds and two steals, including one after his go-ahead basket that set up a jam by Joe Johnson for the final margin.

Luol Deng had 15 points, Joakim Noah had 13 points and 12 rebounds and Derrick Rose had 12 points and 12 assists for Chicago.

Warriors 106, Wizards 102

At Washington, Stephen Curry scored 29 points as Golden State snapped a four-game losing streak and improved to 1-2 on their season-high seven-game road trip.

Monta Ellis scored 21 points and David Lee added nine points and 16 rebounds for the Warriors, who outrebounded Washington 54-40. Nick Young had 31 points for the Wizards.

Celtics 115, Suns 103

At Boston, Kevin Garnett scored 28 points with 11 rebounds, Paul Pierce had 16 and 13 and Rajon Rondo scored 16 with 15 assists to lead Boston past Phoenix.

Aaron Brooks scored 17 points, former Boston College star Jared Dudley had 15 and fellow reserve Marcin Gortat had 13 points and 13 rebounds. The Suns played the last 17 minutes without Vince Carter and Channing Frye, who banged heads and left the game.

Knicks 107, Hornets 88

At New York, Amare Stoudemire scored 24 points and Carmelo Anthony added 22 as New York rolled to its sixth straight win over New Orleans.

Toney Douglas also scored 24 points in place of an injured Chauncey Billups, outplaying slumping Hornets All-Star Chris Paul in the point guard matchup. Shawne Williams finished with 16 points off the bench, 11 in the third quarter when the Knicks broke open the game.

Jarrett Jack scored 21 points and David West had 16 for the Hornets, who have lost three straight.

Thunder 113, Pacers 89

At Oklahoma City, Kevin Durant scored 21 points before leaving with a sprained left ankle as Oklahoma City snapped its first three-game losing streak of the season.

Russell Westbrook added 21 points and nine assists and James Harden scored 17 of his 20 points during the first half, when Oklahoma City built a 22-point lead. The Thunder led by as many as 35 in the fourth quarter before emptying their bench.

Hansbrough led Indiana with 13 points and Dahntay Jones scored 12.

Clippers 106, Rockets 103

At Los Angeles, Eric Gordon scored nine of his 24 points during the final 4:46 in his return to the Clippers' lineup, helping Los Angeles snap a five-game losing streak.

Blake Griffin had 20 points and 14 rebounds for the Clippers, and reserve Chris Kaman scored 10 of his 21 points in the fourth quarter.

Gordon shot 8 for 18 in 35 minutes after missing 18 games because of a sprained right wrist that had a small fracture in it.

Kyle Lowry led Houston with 24 points and 11 assists, and reserve Courtney Lee added 18 points.

Nuggets 120, Bobcats 80

At Denver, Wilson Chandler had 16 points to lead seven Denver players scoring in double figures in the Nuggets' most lopsided win of the season.

Nene, Chris Andersen, Ty Lawson and J.R. Smith had 14 points apiece for the Nuggets, who won for the fourth time in five games since completing the blockbuster trade that sent Carmelo Anthony to the New York Knicks. The 40-point margin of victory surpassed Denver's previous high this season, a 34-point win against on Phoenix on Jan. 11.

Matt Carroll led Charlotte with 19 points. D.J. Augustin added 13 and Shaun Livingston 12.

Trail Blazers 107, Kings 102

At Sacramento, California, Wesley Matthews scored 11 of his 21 points in the fourth quarter as Portland pulled away for the win.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 20 points and 10 rebounds for the Blazers, who had dropped three of four. Andre Miller had 19 points, Nicolas Batum added 17 and Patty Mills finished with 14.

Rookie center DeMarcus Cousins had 28 points and 11 rebounds for the Kings, who have lost two straight and six of eight. Marcus Thornton scored 26 points, Beno Udrih added 13 and Jermaine Taylor and Jason Thompson each had 10.

James' foundation spreading 'Decision' wealth

MIAMI (AP)—The side door to the newly refurbished gym opened, a blast of sunlight splashed into the darkened corner, and 100 children began shrieking in unison.

LeBron James was thrilled.

"It never gets old," James said.

That was the reception Wednesday when the LeBron James Family Foundation and Hewlett-Packard began rolling out what will soon be 1,000 new computers to 59 different Boys & Girls Clubs nationwide. At the Miami club, the roof is getting replaced and workspaces for kids are being spruced up with furniture from the HomeCourt line that James designs with girlfriend Savannah Brinson.

It's all part of the commitment James made last summer, when his hourlong "The Decision" special on July 8, 2010 - in which he said he was joining the Miami Heat—raised more than $3 million for charity.

"I know a lot comes with being a professional athlete," James said in an interview with The Associated Press. "That's also being a role model to a lot of kids that look up to me. This automatically comes with it. And I have nothing but time for kids. I could easily be at home and just relaxing. ... But the opportunity to be here and giving back to these kids, I'm happy to do it."

James mingled with the kids for a while after a short ceremony, checking out the new computers—loaded with many of the newest bells and whistles—and posing for photos. One girl won a contest to have her bedroom redesigned by James and Brinson, and outside, people waited with their cell-phone cameras poised in hopes of catching a brief glimpse of the NBA's two-time MVP.

At one of the busiest stages of the NBA season, James said he welcomed the idea of taking an afternoon away from basketball.

"Kids are a huge passion of mine," James said. "I always said when I was growing up, 'If I ever have an opportunity, if I ever got big enough, whatever the case may be, I will always try to give back as much as possible.'"

Strange as it sounds, James may never have been bigger on the night of "The Decision."

An estimated 10 million people watched the show, which elicited all sorts of reaction the minute he infamously said that he would "take my talents to South Beach" and join the Heat.

James has said many times that he regrets certain aspects of the hastily arranged program, but adds that the money it raised made it more than worth doing.

"Very few people, with one hour of their day, one hour of their life—that's all that show was—can impact this many people," said Boys & Girls Clubs Vice President Frank Sanchez.

Sanchez said he believes "hundreds of thousands of kids" nationwide will be impacted by what James is providing. The northwest Miami neighborhood which hosted Wednesday's event has a high school graduation rate of between 50 and 60 percent, something the Boys & Girls Club is trying to raise considerably.

Days like Wednesday will make that task easier, Sanchez said.

"Every kid here will have the same chance as the same kid in any other community," Sanchez said. "Every kid here can do their homework like every other kid in the country, because the technology is the same. They have a place here, because of LeBron."

HP's association with James goes back many years, and the company did not hesitate when this opportunity came along.

"We don't do celebrity sponsorships," said Satjiv Chahil, HP's Strategic Advisor for Global Market Development. "We celebrate achievers from society who have multifaceted lives, who have an appreciation for technology and who have a human cause. ... We celebrate LeBron."

The first thing James and Brinson did when they arrived at the Miami club Wednesday was check out the furniture—a passion project for them both.

Brinson has a long-standing interest in interior design. So that, combined with James' idea to explore a line and seeing how the couple's two sons, LeBron Jr. and Bryce, tend to test the durability of children's furniture in their home, added another element to what the MVP's foundation is trying to do with initiatives nationwide.

"I just like seeing the smiles on the kids' faces," Brinson said. "And anyone who's benefiting from him coming to talk to them, or just seeing him, it might not be something that they'll be able to do every day ... this is probably the first and last time that something like this can happen and they'll remember it for a long, long time."

James took an overwhelming amount of criticism for "The Decision"—both what he said, and how he said it.

Moments like Wednesday, and the reminder that plenty of good came out of that night, make it easier for him to put aside how naysayers reacted.

"I would do it again," James said. "I won't play this game forever. But the things that we're doing in the communities, things that we're doing in the gymnasiums, in the computer labs, they will last. When I'm done playing basketball, I can still go back to some of those same parks and see what we were able to accomplish that day in 2011. That's important to me."

NFL, union head to CBA deadline day Thursday

WASHINGTON (AP)—Locked in a multibillion-dollar staredown, the NFL and the players' union headed toward the final day of their expiring collective bargaining agreement with no word of significant progress and the increasing likelihood of moves that eventually could threaten the 2011 season.

The sides were scheduled to resume federal mediation Thursday morning. The current labor deal runs out at midnight Eastern time as Thursday becomes Friday, and among the possibilities are that the union decertifies sometime before that deadline; the deadline could be extended; or owners could decide to lock out the players, something the union has expected all along.

Depending on which of those occurs, the country's most popular sport might wind up losing regular-season games to a work stoppage for the first time since 1987. That probably seems unthinkable to football fans who buy tickets and propel TV ratings, helping the NFL become an industry with annual revenues topping $9 billion.

Two people with knowledge of the NFL Players Association's plans told The Associated Press the union was prepared to decertify Thursday, barring a last-minute breakthrough. That action means the union no longer would represent the players, who would be giving up their rights under labor law and instead take their chances in court under antitrust law. The people spoke on condition of anonymity because the union had not made its plans public.

There was a flurry of activity Wednesday: a four-hour mediation session attended by all 10 members of the owners' labor committee, union president Kevin Mawae and New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees; a three-hour owners meeting at a hotel 25 miles away in Chantilly, Va.; the cancellation of another planned gathering of owners Thursday; and a private visit with mediator George Cohen starting at 8 p.m. by NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, two top league lawyers, New York Giants owner John Mara and Green Bay Packers president Mark Murphy.

AP

New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft, center talks with an unidentified man, left, as Carolina Panthers Jerry Richardson, right, looks on after a meeting with NFL owners at a hotel in Chantilly, Va., Wednesday, March 2, 2011.

Mara—the first owner to attend the nine days of mediation, on Tuesday—and Murphy left at 9:30 p.m., followed shortly by Goodell, lead NFL labor negotiator Jeff Pash and outside counsel Bob Batterman.

"Long day," Mara said.

Asked the purpose of the 1 1/2-hour evening meeting with Cohen, Pash said: "To speak with the mediator and get some direction."

Nearly 12 hours earlier, when he, Goodell and other members of the NFL's team arrived for Wednesday's bargaining session, Pash reiterated that the league and union could agree to push back the deadline for arriving at a new CBA.

"We have to see where we are. We've said that's an option. We're not taking anything off the table," Pash said.

Owners did not take any action during their afternoon session in Chantilly, and most said they were headed out of town—including some, such as Jerry Jones of the Dallas Cowboys and Robert Kraft of the New England Patriots, who were at Wednesday's mediation.

The owners are not required to take a lockout vote; that authority has been given to their labor committee, which met separately for an hour.

"We can't comment, and even more so, we're certainly still involved in our dialogue, and so there is no comment," Jones said.

Indianapolis Colts owner Jimmy Irsay said the owners welcomed the opportunity to be updated on negotiations, but there was little reason for them to remain in Washington as the deadline approaches.

"We had the chance to ask questions, but we didn't break with a lockout vote or anything like that," Irsay said.

Asked what he expected to happen heading toward the CBA's expiration, he added: "I never have expectations, except to have A, B, C, D and E, and to always plan for F. It changes. A chessboard that moves around and things happen at unusual hours."

Labor committee members who attended the talks Wednesday were: Mara, Murphy, Kraft, Jones, Jerry Richardson of the Carolina Panthers, Art Rooney of the Pittsburgh Steelers, Mike Brown of Cincinnati Bengals, Clark Hunt of the Kansas City Chiefs, Dean Spanos of the San Diego Chargers, and Pat Bowlen of the Denver Broncos.

Brees, a member of the NFLPA executive committee, and Mawae hadn't attended this round of mediated negotiations, which began Feb. 18. But now all members of the union's executive committee have been present at least once.

"We're talking," Mawae said when he left. "It's better than not talking."

Because Cohen told both sides to stay silent publicly about the current talks, no one has revealed any specifics about what progress might have been made.

The biggest sticking point all along has been how to divide the league's revenues, including what cut team owners should get up front to help cover certain costs, such as stadium construction. Under the old deal, owners received about $1 billion off the top. They entered these negotiations seeking to add another $1 billion to that.

Among the other significant topics: a rookie wage scale; the owners' push to expand the regular season from 16 games to 18 while reducing the preseason by two games; and benefits for retired players.

Cohen said last week that the sides were far apart on the core issues.

By the end of Thursday, more will be known about exactly how far apart.

"I don't want to put any certainty on what this evening might bring or tomorrow might bring," Irsay said Wednesday. "It's really, truly hard to predict. These things change."

NFL BRIEFS

Vick signs 1-year deal with Eagles

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Michael Vick has signed a one-year contract with the Philadelphia Eagles. The Pro Bowl quarterback was designated as the team's franchise player Feb. 15. He signed the franchise tender Wednesday. Under rules of the collective bargaining agreement that expires at midnight Thursday, a team must pay a franchise player the average of the top five salaries at his position. Vick would make an estimated $20 million under this tag. Vick led the Eagles to a 10-6 record and the NFC East title after replacing an injured Kevin Kolb in Week 1. Despite missing three games with an injury, Vick had his best season. He set career highs in yards passing (3,018), touchdowns passing (21), touchdowns rushing (9), completion percentage (62.6) and passer rating (100.2). Vick was voted The Associated Press Comeback Player of the Year after missing two seasons while serving a federal prison sentence for dog fighting and playing sparingly in 2009.

Packers cut LB Hawk, 2 others

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—The Green Bay Packers have released linebacker A.J. Hawk after the former first-round pick was scheduled to earn $10 million in 2011. Hawk was one of three players the Super Bowl champions let go along with tight end Donald Lee and safety Derrick Martin. Hawk was the fifth overall pick of the 2006 draft, playing in all 80 regular-season games since then with 77 starts. General manager Ted Thompson said Wednesday that the business side of the game drove the decision to release Hawk and that they are hopeful he'll return to the team. Lee was set to earn $2.2 million in 2011, while Martin was slated to make $750,000.

Packers' Underwood pleads no contest to sex count

BARABOO, Wis. (AP)—Packers cornerback Brandon Underwood has pleaded no contest to a misdemeanor stemming from an assault investigation in June. Lake Delton police chief Thomas Dorner said Wednesday that Underwood appeared in Sauk County Circuit Court to enter the plea to a charge of prostitution-nonmarital sexual intercourse. He declined further comment. The 24-year-old cornerback who mainly contributed on special teams was accused by two women of sexual assault on June 5 after he had been in Wisconsin Dells for a charity event. His lawyer didn't immediately return a call seeking comment. Underwood was ordered to pay a $379 fine. His record can be expunged in a year. The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel first reported the resolution of the case.

Ravens' Ngata signs one-year, $12.5 million tender

OWINGS MILLS, Md. (AP)—The agent for Baltimore's Haloti Ngata says the Ravens' Pro Bowl defensive tackle has signed his $12.5 million, one-year franchise tender. Mike McCartney said Wednesday the deal had been signed. The Ravens designated Ngata as their franchise player earlier this month, but want to sign him to a long-term deal eventually. By using the franchise tag on Ngata and paying him the average of the top five salaries at his position, the Ravens prevented him from becoming an unrestricted free agent. Voted the Ravens' Most Valuable Player last year, Ngata is a two-time Pro Bowl selection regarded as one of the most dominant defensive linemen in the league. The 6-foot-4, 350-pounder recorded 65 tackles last season with a career-high 5 1/2 sacks to go with five pass deflections and one fumble recovery.

Search warrant issued in UNC agent-related probe

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—Investigators have issued a search warrant for the financial records of NFL agent Gary Wichard as they continue looking into whether North Carolina's sports agent laws have been broken. The search warrant was issued Tuesday to Bank of America for documents connected to Wichard and his California-based firm, Pro Tect Management LLC, since January 2009. Investigators say that Pro Tect paid $1,000 to reimburse a high school assistant coach, who had paid for former Tar Heels defensive lineman Marvin Austin's flights to and from California in March 2009, according to a probable cause affidavit filed with the search warrant. In addition, Pro Tect paid $915.40 to a travel agency to cover changes to Austin's flight itinerary, according to the affidavit. The affidavit also alleges Wichard failed to register with the state as a sports agent despite having "several phone conversations" with Austin starting in January 2009. North Carolina Secretary of State Elaine Marshall's office launched an investigation after the NCAA began looking into possible agent-related benefits in North Carolina's football program.

Oakland's Crisp arrested on DUI charge

PHOENIX (AP)—Major league security officials met with the Oakland Athletics on Wednesday and delivered their annual spring lecture to the players on the pitfalls of their profession. One of the subjects discussed was the danger of drinking and driving.

Coco Crisp attended the meeting. Hours earlier he was in jail.

Crisp was arrested early Wednesday in Scottsdale, Ariz., on suspicion of drunk driving, the third major league player to be charged with DUI during spring training.

The A's released a statement on the matter.

"Coco Crisp was arrested and detained early this morning under the suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol," the club said. "He was released from the City of Scottsdale Jail this morning and arrived at Phoenix Municipal Stadium on time for team pre-game drills.

"The A's are aware of the situation and take such matters seriously. The team and Coco will have no further comment until further details are available."

Scottsdale police didn't immediately respond to calls Wednesday requesting information on the arrest.

Crisp

Crisp was on the field for the morning workout, and he was in the clubhouse before the A's hosted the Cleveland Indians in an exhibition. Crisp did not speak with reporters before leaving Phoenix Municipal Stadium.

Following the game, manager Bob Geren offered little information on Crisp's situation.

"I talked to Coco," he said. "The club put out a statement which speaks for all of us at this point."

Geren said Crisp will play on Thursday when the A's play a road game against the Milwaukee Brewers. The team has not indicated if Crisp faces any team discipline.

The 31-year-old Crisp is the latest major leaguer to face a DUI charge since training camps opened.

Detroit first baseman Miguel Cabrera was arrested in Florida on Feb. 16 on suspicion of driving under the influence and resisting an officer without violence. He is to be arraigned on March 16.

On Tuesday, the Indians learned that outfielder Austin Kearns was arrested on Feb. 12 in Kentucky. He chose not to tell that team on advice of his attorneys, and the team was put in the awkward position of addressing his situation without knowing many facts.

Crisp is coming off an injury-riddled 2010, when he played in just 75 games. He was on the disabled list in April with a broken pinkie finger and went on the DL again in May with a strained rib muscle. Crisp broke the pinkie a second time on Sept. 18 and missed the remainder of the season.

He batted .279 with eight homers, 38 RBIs and had 32 steals.

In November, the A's exercised their $5.75 million option on Crisp for 2011. He's eligible for free agency after this season.

Teixeira ends relationship with agent Boras

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Yankees first baseman Mark Teixeira has ended his relationship with longtime agent Scott Boras.

Teixeira made the announcement before Wednesday's spring training game against Houston.

"I've been thinking about it for a while," Teixeira said. "There's no reason to get into a lot of specifics right now, but sometimes business relationships just run their course. For me, my family right now, this is the best decision for me."

Teixeira said Boras took the news OK, but obviously was disappointed.

"Hopefully, when I see him, we'll be able to shake hands and say thanks for the work we've done together," Teixeira said.

Boras talked with Teixeira on Tuesday.

"Mark and I had a very cordial conversation," Boras said. "Our company had the great honor of working with Mark for over a decade. It was privilege to see him grow into one of the best players in the game, become an All-Star and a World Series champion and win a contract that recognizes him among the game's elite players. We wish him the best moving forward."

Teixeira started using the Jonas Group last year to handle his off-field promotion. He has not yet hired a new agent.

"There's plenty of time for that," Teixeira said. "Nothing's on the horizon."

Teixeira is in the third season of a $180 million, eight-year contract negotiated by Boras.

"Right now, the next contract isn't really on my mind," Teixeira said. "When I hired Scott at 18, it was to help me with my career. From the time I was a rookie, people started talking about my free-agent contract. Unfortunately, it took away from a lot of things I did on the field. I felt, at times, I was a Mark Teixeira, Scott Boras' client instead of Mark Teixeira, baseball player."

Teixeira says after 12 years together, it was time to make a change. He has not selected a new agent.

"He gave me everything I asked for contract-wise," Teixeira said. "I chose Scott for a reason, because I wanted the best agent for my career and for my contract."

MLB BRIEFS

Rockies exec Charlie Monfort injured by a fall

DENVER (AP)—Colorado Rockies general partner Charlie Monfort is recovering from a fall that sent him to the hospital. Team spokesman Jay Alves said Wednesday evening that Monfort was due to be released from a hospital in Scottsdale, Ariz., the team's new home for spring training. He wouldn't release any other details. The 51-year-old Monfort is a club founder and has been one of the team's managing general partners since 1992. He is entering his ninth season as chairman and CEO of the club. Before that, he served as the team's vice chairman, a position his brother, Dick, now holds.

Bochy: Zito has spot as No. 4 starter for Giants

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP)—San Francisco manager Bruce Bochy vehemently denied there was any truth to a report that appeared in the *San Francisco Chronicle* on Wednesday morning suggesting left-hander Barry Zito is not assured a spot on the Giants' roster this season. Bochy, who addressed the media before Wednesday night's spring training game again t an Arizona Diamondbacks split squad, said Zito remains his No. 4 starter and told him so in a meeting earlier in the day. Bochy also said there have never been any talks suggesting otherwise. "Believe me, there has been no conversation anywhere near what the article was about," Bochy said. The *Chronicle* quoted unidentified sources close to the team indicating "exasperation" with the former AL Cy Young Award winner and said his place in the rotation was "definitely not safe." Zito is 40-57 with a 4.45 ERA in his first four years with the Giants after signing a $126 million, seven-year contract before the 2007 season. He was left off the postseason roster for all three rounds last year as the Giants won their first World Series title since 1954.

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AVC Oceania Continental Sub Zonal starts today

BEACH VOLLEYBALL
AVC CONTINENTAL CUP

The Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC) Beach Volleyball Oceania Continental Sub Zonal tournament will be held all day at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan starting today through Sunday.

The CNMI will be competing against teams from Australia, Guam, and Papua New Guinea. Both men and women's divisions compete in two-person teams.

The games will begin at 9am; pre-registration is mandatory in order to participate.

WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND

Players from Northern Marianas, Australia, Guam, and Papua New Guinea will compete in the Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC) Beach Volleyball Oceania Continental Sub Zonal tournament set to start today at Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

The AVC and the Northern Marianas Islands Volleyball Association will be coordinating the CNMI's first-ever Olympic Qualifying event. The Federation International de Volleyball (FIVB) introduced this new qualification process for the London 2012 Olympic games back in September 2010.

Formatted to feature country versus country competition, participants of sub zonal tournaments will compete for berths in the AVC Continental Zonal Tournament. From there, teams will compete for 24 London 2012 Olympic Games Beach Volleyball Qualification vacancies, per gender, in the AVC Continental Cup Finals with 2012 Olympic slots being the ultimate target.

This will be the first sub zonal tournament for the Oceania zone. Two other Oceania sub-zonal tourneys are scheduled in the region.

The second will be held from May 17 to May 21 in Vanuatu and the third leg will be hosted on Samoa from May 23 to May 27.

The Oceania region will offer double-gender competition. AVC will launch similar campaigns in the Eastern, Central, Southeastern and Western zones; these zones will feature two sub zonal tourneys apiece.

A total of 41 countries will host and compete in the AVC Continental Beach Volleyball Cup since the competition began on Sept. 23, 2010. Three 2012 Olympic vacancies are up for grabs.

The Continental Cup includes 154 nations across five continents. It is structured with sub zonal, zonal and continental finals levels of competition.

The Oceania Continental Cup finals will have a total of 16 teams. The Top 3 teams from each zone will be promoted to the Continental Cup finals; host teams automatically receive a spot in the final round. In the case of the host team being ranked in the top three qualifiers, the fourth-ranked country of their zonal tournament will progress.

If the winning teams do not already have two Olympic Qualifiers from their country based on world rankings then they will qualify for the 2012 Olympics. The second and third ranked teams will then move on to the FIVB Beach Volleyball World Cup for another chance to qualify for the 2012 Olympic games. ***(Walter Cepeda-Sutherland)***

IP&E

From Page 1

away from making it to the finals, thanks to Joemary Tumaquip's courageous plays in the homestretch. The high-spirited IP&E Konflikt guard completed a three-point play, made a free throw, drilled a layup, and defeated NMC Proa's pressure defense a couple of times in the crucial stages of the match. He also had a couple of steals in the fourth quarter.

With the game tied at 74-all and four IP&E Konflikt players a bit hesitant in attacking the basket with the 24-second shot clock ticking, Tumaquip bravely drove against two taller defenders and completed a jackknife shot. He drew a foul, too and canned the bonus shot to give IP&E Konflikt a 77-74 lead going into the last two minutes of the match.

Tumaquip added another free throw for a 78-76 advantage and IP&E Konflikt had a chance to increase the lead when Jack Lizama was called for an unsportsmanlike foul after elbowing Kae Bernardo as they jockeyed for position in the rebound play. Bernardo sustained a cut on the bridge of his nose and left the court, forcing Elmer Esdrelon to take the two free shots. Esdrelon missed both charities and when possession returned to NMC, Dan Barcinas, who earlier hit back-to-back treys, muffed a triple.

NMC put up their proverbial trapping defense after the botched play, but Tumaquip found a way to break it and went for another layup, increasing IP&E Konflikt's lead to 80-76.

NMC then committed a couple of halfcourt defensive lapses in the ensuing plays, leaving Brendon Talania and Ivan De Vero open for shots and allowing IP&E Konflikt to preserve the win.

De Vero top-scored for IP&E Konflikt with 23 points, while Bernardo finished with 20. Tumaquip added 11, making six of them in the last 2:30 of the match. Talania and Esdrelon added 13 for the team's balance scoring.

Barcinas and Pete Iguel carried most of NMC's scoring load, making 28 and 23 points. Lizama, who averaged in double figures in their first seven games, was held to three points and fouled out after hitting Bernardo. Gyles Ruluked chipped in 10.

IP&E Konflikt led by as much as 13 in the third, 59-46, before NMC started a comeback late in the third until the first three minutes of the fourth canto to tie the game, 62-all. NMC forced deadlocks several times, but could not take the lead, as Tumaquip came to the rescue.

Hoopaholics 77, Rollers 61

In the first game, the Hoopaholics gained the last playoffs berth after a 77-61 win over the Rollers.

The Rollers bowed out of competition with a 2-6 record.

The Hoopaholics got off to a good start in the make-or-break match, leading by 13 after the opening period, 24-11. Dave Sablan paced the Hoops in the first quarter, making nine points.

The Hoops never trailed, as Rollers failed to neutralize Sablan, who top-scored for his team with 18 points.

First Game

Hoopaholics 77 – D. Sablan 18, I. Rasa 15, Joyner 14, Fitial 11, Manibusan 6, J. Sablan 4, Palacios 4, Villacrusis 3, Mendez 2.

Rollers 61 – Matagolai 20, Metran 9, Ogarto 8, Hambros 8, Santos 6, Ulloa 6, Teregeyo 4.

Scoring by quarters: 24-11, 40-22, 62-41, 77-61.

Second Game

IP&E Konflikt 85 – De Vero 23, Bernardo 20, Esdrelon 13, Talania 13, Tumaquip 11, Mendoza 3, Berline 2.

NMC Proa 77 – D. Barcinas 28, Iguel 20, Ruluked 10, Mendiola 9, Lizama 2, Palacios 2, A. Barcinas 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-21, 46-33, 61-54, 85-77.

NATIBU

From Page 1

after two innings off a two-run homerun by Giovannie Ayuyu in the first followed by an RBI single by Vince Cepeda in the second.

Your Balls added three more runs in the top of the third with a solo shot by Mike Taitano followed a hit later by a two-run blast by Oliver Secharmidal.

The G-Ballers then tied the game in the bottom of the third. The first run came off an error and Paul Salalila jacked a grand slam before Jude Dickinson and John Wayne Kintaro scored runs off a sacrifice fly and a base hit.

After a scoreless fourth, G-Ballers reclaimed the lead, 12-7, in the bottom of the fifth. Lefty Shiro hit an RBI double, Kintaro an RBI single, and the rest came off errors.

Your Balls managed five runs in the sixth off a two-run homer by Secharmidal and RBI singles by Joshua Arriola, J.P. Lizama, and A.J. Taitano. However, G-Ballers answered in the bottom frame, Shiro stole home, and the other runs came in off errors.

G-Ballers then held Your Balls to just a pair of runs in the seventh inning to secure the victory.

NMC Proa 13, Check It Out 6

NMC Proa broke the ice in the top of the second off an error and a single by Sansannie Matsutaro, but Check It Out got a run back off a single by Sandy Guerrero in the bottom frame.

Check It Out clawed back to reclaim the lead, 3-2, in the bottom of the fourth off an error and a fielder's choice.

After a quiet fifth, Proa's top of the order came alive in the sixth frame and went ahead, 9-6. The first run came off an error, while Werly Breakenridge drove in the second. Proa then loaded the bases and got one run to walk home before Felisa Brel cleared the bases with a double; Brel scored later off an error.

Check It Out managed three runs in the bottom frame, but Proa answered with four runs in the top of the seventh and held on to close the last three outs.

FIVE

From Page 1

20 assists, 13 steals, and two blocks. The Mobil guard led the league in free throws made with 32 and helped his team to a second-place finish in the regular season.

Abuel paced the UBA caging in assists with his 21. The Satbahi 3-point shooter averaged 14 points per game with his 112 total in eight matches grab grabbed 12 rebounds, 22 steals, and two blocks.

Matagolai led two departments, winning the scoring and 3-point shooting categories. He scored 210 points in eight games for an average 26.25 points and had the most triples with 17. The Rollers gunner scored 40-plus points in two games and converted 75 two-point field goals. He also nailed 21 rebounds, 11 assists, and 15 steals.

Duplicating Matagolai's feat was Joyner, who topped the rebounds and blocks departments with 63 and 23, respectively. Joyner missed one game in the regular season, pegging his scoring average at 15 per match. He also gave out eight assists and recorded 19 steals.

Selection of the regular season MVP will be based on coaches and various league committees' votes. Coaches must pick two players from the list and they cannot select their own player. Nominees should be submitted on or before March 8.

From the list, players who get the Top 3 most votes will advance and be considered for selection by the UBA committees. Winner of the regular season MVP award will be announced during Game 2 of the finals on March 14.

RECORD

From Page 1

orientation will take place first at 4pm, while the English version is set for 4:30pm. Runners are also reminded to pick up their race packet during the orientation.

Extra caution

Meanwhile, drivers and pedestrians are requested to take extra caution during the race.

"Drivers are asked to exercise caution and drive slowly, especially in the pre-dawn hours between American Memorial Park and the FEBC turnaround in Marpi. Thanks to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., we have more lighting this year than last, but the road is still somewhat dark at that time," Marianas Visitors Authority community projects manager Martin Duenas said. "Also, we are going to see most runners on Beach Road from 6am to 10am, so we are asking drivers to take an alternate route during that time, if possible."

MVA also requested the cooperation of dog owners to ensure the safety of the runners.

"Every year we have reports of dogs attacking runners, many of whom spent hundreds of dollars to visit our islands and participate in our tourism events. We really need the support of pet owners to make sure all our runners make it through the course in the morning without being frightened, harassed, or bitten by aggressive dogs. Together we can make this 6th Saipan Marathon the best, yet," Duenas added.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	44	15	.746	–
New York	31	28	.525	13
Philadelphia	30	30	.500	14 1/2
New Jersey	17	43	.283	27 1/2
Toronto	17	44	.279	28

Southeast Division

Miami	43	17	.717	–
Orlando	39	22	.639	4 1/2
Atlanta	37	24	.607	6 1/2
Charlotte	26	34	.433	17
Washington	15	45	.250	28

Central Division

Chicago	41	18	.695	–
Indiana	27	33	.450	14 1/2
Milwaukee	23	36	.390	18
Detroit	22	41	.349	21
Cleveland	11	49	.183	30 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	50	11	.820	–
Dallas	44	16	.733	5 1/2
New Orleans	35	28	.556	16
Memphis	34	28	.548	16 1/2
Houston	31	32	.492	20

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	37	22	.627	–
Denver	36	26	.581	2 1/2
Portland	34	27	.557	4
Utah	32	29	.525	6
Minnesota	15	47	.242	23 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	43	19	.694	–
Phoenix	31	28	.525	10 1/2
Golden State	27	33	.450	15
L.A. Clippers	22	40	.355	21
Sacramento	15	44	.254	26 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Atlanta 83, Chicago 80
San Antonio 109, Cleveland 99
Golden State 106, Washington 102
Boston 115, Phoenix 103
Minnesota 116, Detroit 105
New York 107, New Orleans 88
Oklahoma City 113, Indiana 89
Denver 120, Charlotte 80
Portland 107, Sacramento 102
L.A. Clippers 106, Houston 103

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wass Up shuts out AJ Falcons

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Wass Up recovered from last week's loss with a 14-0 demolition of the AJ Falcons in the second game in the 2011 Belau Amateur Softball Association Slow-Pitch League last Sunday at the Dandan Elementary School Ballfield.

Byron Kaipat led Wass Up, going 3-for-3 at bat and scoring two runs, one homer, one triple, one double, and three RBIs. Pitcher John Terlaje was only 2-for-4 and had two runs, but gave up only three hits.

Wass Up outfielders also contributed in the win, catching 11 fly balls. Wass up improved to a 3-1 record for second place in the team standings, while the Falcons dropped to a 1-2 slate.

TKK 2 14, Red Torch 2

TKK 2 kept the top spot with its 4-0 record, following a 14-2 rout of the Red Torch.

TKK 2 needed only five innings to win the game, saving its best for last with a seven-run fifth inning. Jerry Ayuyu and Toi Celis had three runs each for TKK 2 and each went 3-for-3 at bat.

Asahi 4, Koror Tigers 2

Asahi gained a share of the lead with TKK 2 after a 4-2 win over the Koror Tigers.

The game was tied, 2-all, after five innings, but J.D. Dikito drove in Gloyd Martin and the former also made it home off Derrick Aughenbaugh's single to put Asahi on top, 4-2. At the top of the seventh, Koror's first two batters were thrown out and the third one singled, but was latter tagged out heading to second base, ending the match in Asahi's favor.

Peleliu 9, Haga T 6

Peleliu improved to a 2-2 record after a 9-6 triumph over Haga T.

Peleliu shut out Haga T in the first three innings and then blanked its foes in the last two for a three-run win. Lefty Shiro went 4-for-4 at bat and scored three runs.

Hilitai 8, Go for Broke 6

Hilitai notched its second win after downing Go for Broke, 8-6.

Hilitai limited Go for Broke to two runs in the first five innings for a 6-2 lead and then hung on against the former's rally in the sixth inning. Go for Broke remained winless in four games.

Auel Auel 12, K-Angels 5

In the last game of the day, Auel Auel topped K-Angels, 12-5.

Auel Auel had a six-run bottom of the sixth inning to take control of the match and then shut out K-Angels in the last three innings to gain the easy win.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

John Terlaje, seen here in a file photo, allowed only three hits in Wass Up's 14-0 win over the AJ Falcons in the Belau league last Sunday at the Dandan Elementary School Ballfield.

Angels bury D-9ers, 13-3

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The St. Michael's Angels remained flawless in three games after run-ruling the D-9ers, 13-3, in the resumption of Saipan Major League play Wednesday night at Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Angels broke the ice with two runs in the first inning off a sacrifice fly by Nokki Saralu and a fielder's choice.

The D-9ers came up empty in the bottom frame and the Angels added two runs to start the second off RBI singles by Jesus Iguel and Saralu.

D-9ers did not answer and the Angels jumped ahead 10-0 in the top of the fourth inning.

The first three batters reached and scored off a walk and errors. Fred Kaipat, Marvin Kaipat, and Tyrone Omar all came to the plate.

Ben Wachi Taisacan then scored Saralu, a hit and two outs later. Clifton Silil brought him home in the next at bat with a double and Pat Alepuyo stepped in next and followed suit to bring Salil to the plate with a double before D-9ers could escape.

D-9ers managed a run in the bottom frame off an error, but the Angels answered with three runs in the top of the fifth off an error and RBI singles by Dave Camacho and Taisacan.

D-9ers put two more runs on the board in the bottom frame off an RBI double by E.J. Tenorio and a fielder's choice, but the Angels held its 10-run advantage through the next two innings to secure the mercy decision.

Winning pitcher Franco Flores went all seven and gave up one earned run, five hits, a walk, and a bean ball with five strikeouts.

SML action continues tonight at 6pm when the Brewers take on the Masters at Tan Ko field.

WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND

St. Michael's Angels' Pat Alepuyo unloads on a pitch in last Wednesday's Saipan Major League game against D-9ers at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

IT&E Voyagers leads Agingan division

»Two-way tie in Obyan standings

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

IT&E Voyagers of Jonny's Bar & Grill is the current frontrunners of the Agingan Division, while USSP Peleliu Club's Fotten Palau and sister team Turtles share the top spot in the Obyan Division as the Saipan Billiards Association kicked off its new season Tuesday night.

IT&E Voyagers' 5-2 win-loss record places the team ahead of Utopia Sports Bar's Docomo Hustlers (4-3) and Jonny's Bar & Grill's Home Boyz (3-4). IT&E Incredibles (2-5) of Buddies' Bar & Grill is in last place.

Fotten Palau and the Turtles also share 5-2 cards to sit just ahead of Wild Bill's Shark Attack (4-3) and VFW Post 3457's X-Tream (3-4). D'Pirates Bar & Grill's Best Choice and Pirates bring up the rear with identical 2-5 records.

Shark Attack 4, X-Tream 3

At VFW, Shark Attack won two singles matches one via tiebreaker and squeaked past X-Tream by taking both doubles matches by tiebreaker.

Docomo Hustlers 4, Home Boys 3

At Utopia, Docomo Hustlers won three singles matches, one by tiebreaker, and swept the first doubles match for the victory.

IT&E Voyagers 5, Incredibles 2

At Jonny's, IT&E Voyagers won four of the five singles matches—two by tiebreaker—to clinch the victory and sweep the first doubles match. IT&E's Rey Pinangay ran the rack in his matchup.

Turtles 5, Best Choice 2

At D'Pirates, Turtles won two of the five singles matches, one via tiebreaker, and held on to sweep both doubles matches for the comeback victory.

Fotten Palau 5, Pirates 2

At USSP, Fotten Palau won four singles matches, three via sweep, and went on to sweep the final doubles match. Fotten Palau's John Mongami ran the rack in his matchup.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

IT&E Voyagers is the current frontrunner of the Saipan Billiards Association's Agingan Division after defeating sister team IT&E Incredibles, 5-2, in their season opener last Tuesday at Jonny's Bar & Grill.

IT&E Kamote's, Lights Out atop Thursday leagues

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

IT&E Kamote's of Jonny's Bar & Grill and Buddies' Bar & Grill's Lights Out are currently the frontrunners of the B-Fanihi and B-Flame Tree divisions after completion of their Saipan Electronic Dart Association matchups Thursday last week.

IT&E Kamote's holds a 21-9 win-loss record to top a tight B-Fanihi Division where there is a two-way tie for second and third place.

Lights Out leads the 10-team B-Flame Tree Division with its record of 22-8. The team hold a slim lead over Gaia Bar's Gaiana B (18-12), with Buddies' Bar & Grill's Wild Shooters (17-13) and Oleai Beach Bar & Grill's No Fear (17-13) tied for third place.

B-FANIHI LEAGUE
Barracuda 9, Duruzi II 6

At Gaia, Buddies' Barracuda won three 301 matches, swept both 501 games, won a sniper match, and swept both Burma Road games for the victory; they added the final team 1001 match to its total.

Assashunz 9, Troubleshooters 6

At Buddies' VFW Post 3457's Assashunz won three 301 matches, swept both wild cricket games, won a 501 contest, and a pair of cricket matches for the victory; they also took the final team 1001 match.

IT&E Kamote's 13, Dart Pimps 2

At Oleai, IT&E Kamote's took all but a partners 501 game and a cricket match for the dominating win.

Akiraminai Buddy! 8, Sabalu 7

At Charlie's Cabaret, Buddies' Akiraminai Buddy! won a 301 match, swept both wild cricket games, won a 501 contest, three cricket matches, and took the final team 1001 game for the victory. Akiraminai's Alfred Muna scored a 140 High In and his teammate Bam Vicente scored a 142 High Out.

B-FLAME TREE LEAGUE
Real Deal 8, Dutty Gunz 7

At VFW, The Flair Bar's Real Deal won a 301 match, a wild cricket game, swept both 501 contests, won three cricket matches, swept both Burma Road games, and took the final team 1001 match to secure the comeback victory.

Delubyo 8, Wild Shooters 7

At D'Pirates Bar & Grill, Delubyo won a pair of 301 matches, swept both wild cricket games, won three cricket matches, a Burma Road game, and took the final team 1001 match for the victory. Wild Shooters' Jojo Guilas scored a 106 High In.

No Fear 9, Why Not 6

At Oleai, No Fear won a pair of 301 matches, swept both wild cricket games, won a 501 contest, two cricket matches, and a Burma Road game for the victory; they added the final team 1001 match to its total.

Lights Out 12, Naked Fish Boyz 3

At Buddies' Lights Out won a pair of 301 matches, swept both wild cricket games, swept both 501 contests, and won three cricket matches for the victory; they added both Burma Road games and the final team 1001 match to its total.

Gaiana B 11, Whatever 4

At USSP Peleliu Club, Gaiana B won three 301 matches, a game of wild cricket, swept both 501 contests, and won three cricket matches for the victory. They added a Burma Road game and the final team 1001 match to its total. Gaiana B's Derek Sablan scored a 111 High Out.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

IP&E Konflikt seals semis seat

ROSELYN B.MONROYO
IP&E Konflikt's Jomary Tumaquip, center, dribbles past the defense of NMC Proa's Pete Iguel, right, and Aitau Barcinas during their game in the UBA/Docomo caging on Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

IP&E Konflikt clinched the second semis seat in the 2nd Docomo Pacific/UBA Men's League after outlasting NMC Proa, 85-77, on Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

IP&E Konflikt ended the round-robin regular season with a 7-1 record to top the nine-team field. NMC Proa dropped to a 6-2 slate after back-to-back losses and settled for third place. IP&E Konflikt and Mobil advanced to the semis, drawing a bye in the playoff round, which will start tonight. Mobil handed IP&E Konflikt its lone loss in the season during the opening of the league on Jan. 16, but the latter went on a seven-game winning run to take the No. 1 seeding in the playoffs.

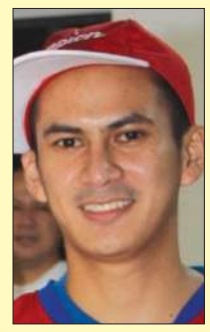
NMC will play in the first round of the playoffs against the six-ranked Satbahi (4-4) at 6:30pm with the winner facing IP&E Konflikt in the semifinals on Monday. In the second game tonight at 8pm, No. 4 Ol'Aces (5-3) will take on No. 5 Hoopaholics (4-4) with the victor dueling No. 2 Mobil (6-2) in the other semis game. The playoff round has a single elimination format, while the finals will be a best-of-three affair.

The big win over NMC Proa moved IP&E Konflikt a win

See IP&E on Page 34

Esdrelon

Estolas


Abuel

Matagolai

Joyner

Five nominated for regular season MVP

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Nominees for the regular season MVP in the 2nd Docomo Pacific/UBA Men's League are out with five players making the elite list.

Nominated for the coveted individual plum are IP&E Konflikt's Elmer Esdrelon, Mobil's Jun Estolas, Satbati's Wowie Abuel, Rollers' Manny Matagolai, and the Hoopaholics' Jawn Joyner.

Unified Basketball Association explained that nominees were selected based on their statistics and overall performance in the round-robin regular season.

Esdrelon is the team captain of IP&E Konflikt and scored in double figures in all eight games in the regular season, collecting a total of 122 points for an average of 15.25 per game. The IP&E Konflikt off guard also posted 19 rebounds, 16 assists, and four blocks and led the league in steals with 26.

Estolas earned 124 points in seven games for an average of 17.71 points. He was also credited with 21 rebounds,

See FIVE on Page 34

Record entry in tomorrow's Saipan Marathon

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A participant in the 5th Saipan Marathon last year nears the finish line.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 6th Saipan Marathon will hit the road tomorrow with a record-entry of 833 runners.

On- and off-island runners will compete in the 10K, half marathon, and marathon races. Runners joining the longest race of the day will start first, leaving the American Memorial Park compound at 4:30am. The half marathon will follow next with start time at 5:45am, while the 10k run will kick off at 6am.

For the marathon, runners will head north first, making a turn at the Far East Broadcasting Co. in Marpi to head back and join the half marathon participants to the southern part of the course via Beach Road with the turning point near the post office in Chalan Kanoa.

Race volunteers will be stationed along the course to guide runners. A course orientation will be held today at the AMP baseball field. The Japanese

See RECORD on Page 34

Natibu, G-Ballers, NMC Proa score wins

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Natibu stretched its undefeated run to five following a 23-13 run-rule victory over Familia, while G-Ballers scored a 17-14 victory over Your Balls to even out its record to 2-2 as the men's division of the 2nd Annual Chamolinian Budweiser Slow-Pitch Softball League continued Monday night at the Capital Hill Ballfield

NMC Proa, meanwhile, improved its win-loss card to 2-2 in the women's division following a 13-6 triumph over Check It Out.

Natibu 23, Familia 13

Familia took an early 5-0 lead in the first inning. John Paul Flores, Greg Camacho, and Brian Lizama belted RBI singles, Kolin Reyes a sacrifice fly, and the other run came in off a walk with the bases loaded.

Natibu fired back with nine runs in the bottom half. Ken Kalen led off with a solo shot and two walks and an out later, Jerome Delos Santos busted a three-run homer. Then came a solo blast by Victor Salas, a run off an error, and a pair of RBI singles by Roy Magofna and Jonathan Welson.

Familia got two runs back off a homerun by Camacho, but Natibu jumped ahead, 17-7, in the bottom frame. Bruce Norita hit a two-run bomb, J.R. Suel a two-RBI knock, Ned Norita drove in a run, and the other came off a fielder's choice.

Familia managed six runs to start the fourth, but Natibu answered in the bottom with six runs to nullify the effort. Natibu's Delos Santos batted 3-for-4 with a homerun and four RBIs.

G-Ballers 17, Your Balls 14

Your Balls took an early 4-0 lead

See NATIBU on Page 34